Drilon asks Aussies to freeze Dante Tan deposits

Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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Test for drugbusters

WOW, PARE... WOW! MAHIRAP MAKALUSOT DYAN!

By Christian Esguerra

NOT so fast. Before ex-Col. Rey Jaylo and ex-Maj. Lucio Margallo can join the hunt for big-time drug rings, they need to take a test. A drug test.

"It's a requirement

TEST/ A18

GMA rating up again

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENTIAL aspirants won't like it but a polling firm reported yesterday that the performance rating of President Macapagal-Arroyo rose 28 percentage points in the second quarter, reversing her negative rating in the first three months of the year.

Net satisfaction with the President's performance rose to +14 from -14, according

GMA/ A6

PCGG questions Danding's television ads

By Alcuin Papa

WHO'S paying for Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's television ads? The Presidential Commission on Good Government wants to know.

The PCGG yesterday questioned Cojuangco's use of San Miguel Corp. funds to pay for a television commercial that may possibly further his political ambitions.

"We have instructed our five directors to take the matter up in the SMC board of directors meeting. We are hopeful the other directors will also take the matter up. It is a legitimate concern," PCGG officer in charge Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. told reporters yesterday.

Carranza said the instructions were issued to the five directors after the PCGG received complaints from coconut farmers.

The commercial shows Cojuangco explaining the change in name of La Tondeña Distillery Inc., a subsidiary of SMC, to Ginebra San Miguel Inc.

The Philippine Peasant Institute has taken its concern about Cojuangco's TV commercial a step further, by calling on the Kirin group in Japan, a key minority stockholder in the company, to bar Cojuangco from using SMC to advance his political ambition.

But the SMC media affairs office said Cojuangco's appearance in the ad "constitutes a legitimate corporate purpose, which is completely in accordance to the company's by-laws, policies or practices."

"Corporate endorsements by company CEOs (chief executive officers) is a common practice here and abroad and

PCGG/ A19

COJUANGCO: Drawing line between business and politics.
PDI PHOTO

17 killed in NPA attack

Rebels burn down Army camp in Eastern Samar

By Cyrain Cabueñas, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

DOLORES, Eastern Samar—Four days after their daylight attack on a police station on the southern tip of Eastern Samar was repulsed, 200 communist guerrillas yesterday swooped down on an Army patrol base in the northern part of the province shortly before dawn.

Outnumbered and outgunned, government forces again made a gallant stand, but this time they proved no match to the communist New People's Army.

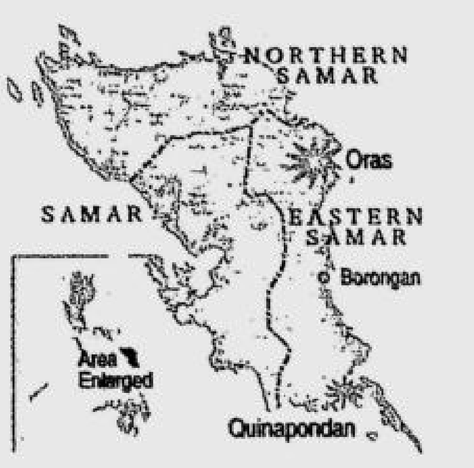
Eleven militiamen, five Army soldiers and the wife of a corporal were killed in the two-hour gun battle, according to a field report received by the AFP Central Command (Cencom) in Cebu City. Two soldiers were wounded.

The NPA rebels burned down the detachment of the 52nd Infantry Battalion's Alpha Company in Barangay Cagpile, about 60 km from the Oras town proper, after seizing the firearms of the dead and wounded soldiers. The NPA group escaped on three motorized outriggers.

The rebels launched their attack at about 4:30 a.m., sparking the two-hour gun battle.

"They fought valiantly and died with their boots on," Brig. Gen. Rafael

17 KILLED/ A19



AFTER losing face in Quinapondan, NPA rebels launch a successful raid in the hinterlands of Oras.

BIGGER than the AFP's C-4 inventory? President Macapagal, Defense Secretary Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya view assorted explosives seized from an MILF camp in Mindanao and displayed at Camp Aguinaldo. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA: Bomb cache sets back peace

By TJ Burgonio and Gil Cabacungan

A PRESIDENTIAL adviser yesterday said he was optimistic peace with the MILF could be reached within three months, but the President herself did not seem to share his optimism.

Viewing the substantial cache of C-4 explosives the Armed Forces said it recovered over the weekend from a "bomb factory" inside a Moro Islamic Liberation Front camp in Maguindanao, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the discovery "sets back the peace process."

"We are preparing for the start of the peace talks, but this does not mean that we are tactically blind to events," the President said in Camp Aguinaldo.

She then pressed the MILF to make a full disclosure of the sources and targets of its arsenal of explosives, before the peace talks resume. The explosives, she said, are proof of "continuing terrorist intentions and plans."

GMA/ A19

Palace has no comment on 'transition president'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG yesterday kept a pregnant silence vis-à-vis a ranking official's contention that President Macapagal-Arroyo could serve as "transition president" if she runs and is elected in 2004.

Rigoberto Tiglao, Hernani Braganza and Jose Ma. Rufino, the President's chief of staff, adviser on political affairs, and political liaison, respectively, all refused to comment on the statement made Wednesday and earlier by Norberto Gonzales, adviser on special concerns.

According to Gonzales, "only" Ms Macapagal among the supposed presidential hopefuls would have "the nobility to act as transition president and see to the full shift to a parliamentary system of government midway in her new term" if she is elected next year.

But one of the President's men, who

PALACE/ A6

ANTI-DRUG WAR

Gov't urged to enlist aid of nation's 17M texters

By Cynthia D. Balana

TEXTERS can be tapped for the renewed government campaign against illegal drugs, Rep. Antonio Cuenco said last night at the anti-drugs summit.

The country has more than 17 million users of cell phones with SMS (short messaging service or texting) capability.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the summit at the House of Representatives, Cuenco said enlisting the support of texters would help boost the government's over-all strategy to fight the drug menace.

The proposal came from Martin Diño of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) and a barangay chair.

Diño said texters should be encouraged to provide information on suspected drug pushers in their communities.

"These texters have all the time to participate in games or other promotions so why not use them in this campaign?" Diño told participants in the summit. His proposal was well-received by congressmen.

Cuenco said it was a bright idea to encourage citizen participation in the drive against illegal drugs. "It's a good idea really. Texters can help in this difficult drive against merchants of death.

GOV'T/ A18

IN THE BALANCE. Ifugao women farmers, balancing rice stalks on their head, harvest their farm on the slopes of the famous rice terraces. About half of Ifugao's population have left for lowland farms, leaving the terraces at risk. ***(See story on Page A16.)*** REUTERS

Guingona: Irresponsible trial balloon

By Norman Bordadora and Christine O. Avendaño

THE SCENARIO of a "transition president" is an "irresponsible trial balloon" that Malacañang should shoot down, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said yesterday.

Guingona, president of the ruling Lakas-CMD, called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to clear the confusion sown by "vague and conflicting pronouncements," such as the scenario aired by Norberto Gonzales, the President's adviser on special concerns.

"The last thing Malacañang needs is a loose cannon whose statements erode the public's faith in the President's assur-

GUINGONA/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/27/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Aussies asked to freeze Dante Tan deposits

By Michael Lim Ubac

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday asked the Australian government to freeze fugitive Dante Tan's deposits amounting to US$471,000 at the Commonwealth Bank of Sydney.

In a long distance call from Canberra, Drilon told the INQUIRER he has discussed with members of the Australian Parliament the possibility of having Tan's bank account frozen pending resolution of the wanted man's stock fraud cases in Manila.

Drilon believes freezing the bank account is feasible "as long as proper documentation to support the request is made."

He said it was possible the funds in the account had come from the stock manipulation scheme that benefited Tan and others, including former President Joseph Estrada, in 1999.

"It is possible the money came from the stock fraud scandal, which would make it subject to the Anti-Money Laundering Law," Drilon said.

Drilon is on a five-day official visit to Australia with Senators Juan Flavier and Sergio Osmeña III to discuss a wide range of issues such as terrorism, trade and bilateral cooperation with members of the Australian Parliament.

Freeze request

A statement released by Drilon's office said the three met yesterday with the Australian Parliament's attorney general Daryl Williams and shadow attorney general Robert McClelland.

Drilon said they discussed the Philippine government's formal request for the freezing of Tan's bank account.

Tan, who fled the Philippines after his crony and patron Estrada was ousted from office in January 2001, left Australia for Singapore last June 4, just ahead of an investigation into his ties to the Australian immigration minister.

He was supposed to have fled Singapore for Central Europe the following day. His present whereabouts could not be ascertained.

Tan faces charges in the Philippines over a stock manipulation case that saw the spectacular rise and fall of Best World Resources share prices, which nearly caused the collapse of the local stock market.

He left Manila for Hong Kong in February 2001, before the Department of Justice could issue a hold-departure order against him.

Tan later acquired Australian citizenship, after allegedly donating A$10,000 (US$6,700) to campaign funds of the ruling Liberal Party.

Granting visa

The granting of a business visa and later Australian citizenship to Tan by Immigration Commissioner Philip Ruddock has grown into a political controversy that has embarrassed the ruling party.

The opposition Labor Party accused the government of trading visas for political donations, but the Liberal Party hit back by accusing the former of failing to report a raffle ticket donation from Tan.

On Wednesday, Australian opposition leader Sen. Nick Bolkus apologized for embarrassing his party by failing to report the US$6,500 donation from Tan.

Bolkus claimed it was caused by disorganization on his part rather than intent. He made the admission after Workplace Relations Minister Tony Abbot claimed that Bolkus had laundered money and failed to fully disclose the donation as mandated by election laws.

Sinking pier puts ports boss in hot water

By Armand N. Nocum

PHILIPPINE Ports Authority General Manager Alfonso Cusi is in hot water over the construction of a P230-million port in Roxas City that is reportedly sinking into the sea.

On top of this, a consumer group that had filed a plunder case against Cusi and several others in connection with the port project has asked Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo to speed up resolution of the case to show that the government was serious about fighting graft and corruption.

Cusi was not available for comment, but one of the other accused, Efren Bollozos, head of the PPA facilities construction and maintenance division, denied the charges. But Bollozos said the project contractor had offered to repair any defects in the port for free.

Top official

"Mr. Cusi is considered a top official not only because he (heads) one of the government's top agencies, but also because he was appointed by the President, whose family is reportedly close to Mr. Cusi. It is certainly a challenge on your part to speed up the resolution of Cusi's case," said Ariel Lim of the Consumer Complaints Center Inc. in a June 23 letter to Marcelo.

In the letter, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, Lim said he had filed one plunder and four graft charges against Cusi and other PPA officials at the start of the year, but not one of these has been resolved.

Ombudsman records showed that in the plunder case filed on March 26, Lim had accused Cusi, Bollozos and several others of using substandard materials in the construction of the port in Culasi, Roxas City.

In his complaint, Lim cited a Department of Environment and Natural Resources report which said there was "visible gradual but progressive settlement or sinking of the structure."

Port crumbling

Lim said the port is "crumbling and would soon be lost by corrosion, resulting in the expected collapse of the port."

Lim said this was because the contractor, Golden City Construction and Development, used "limestone rocks or *buga*" for the project, even as it billed the government P59 million for stronger "core rocks."

Lim said the contractor had allegedly colluded with PPA officials when it "misrepresented its billings and collection."

In a telephone interview, however, Bollozos said there was no more danger to the port after the contractor "had repaired the so-called damage at no cost to the government."

"Actually, what (Lim) claimed to be chipping was only the pile jacket, the pile itself is guaranteed to withstand the elements for 20 years even without any protection," he said, referring to the port's support structure.

He said they have records to show the "right materials were used in the construction" of the port.

NECRO RITES

Cayetano back in Senate today

By Michael Lim Ubac

FULL MILITARY honors await the remains of Sen. Renato Cayetano when these are brought to the Senate at 2 p.m. today.

After an absence of eight months, the man who would be Senate president will be returning to the chamber for the last time.

No less than President Macapagal-Arroyo will lead the mourners at the necrological rites in honor of the late senator-lawyer, according to Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda.

Legarda will preside over the rites in place of Senate President Franklin Drilon, who left for Canberra, Australia on June 24.

Legarda said El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde has been asked to deliver a eulogy for the late senator.

According to Senate protocol officer Cesar de Chavez, the necrological rites will be steeped in tradition observed for fallen members of the upper chamber.

A solemn yet emotion-filled service is expected. Cayetano's remains will arrive 30 minutes before the necrological rites are set to begin.

An honor guard from the Philippine National Police will render arrival honors.

Protocol dictates that the senators and other Senate officials meet the body as it arrives.

"Then the coffin will be carried by policemen-pallbearers to the session hall, followed by the senators, Cayetano's wife and children, other relatives and dignitaries," De Chavez said.

At exactly 2 p.m., Legarda will bang the gavel declaring the formal start of the necrological services

At this point, Senate Secretary Oscar G. Yabes will request everyone to rise for the singing of the national anthem to be led by the Senate choir.

The mourners will be asked to remain standing for the invocation to be given by Pastor Cornelio Castillo.

Then Yabes will call on Velarde to deliver his eulogy, to be followed by former Assemblyman Homobono Adaza, Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III and Senators Noli de Castro and Legarda, who will also speak.

Ms Macapagal will be the last to deliver her eulogy.

The program released by the Senate secretariat yesterday included Rep. Salacnib Baterina and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. among the list of speakers.

The two, however, will not be able to make it to the rites, according to the secretariat.

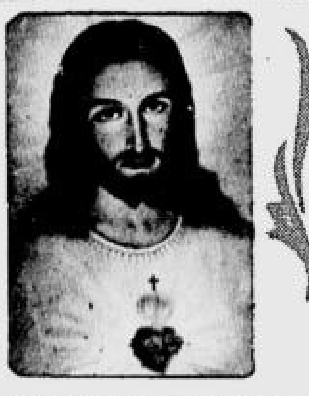
Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, the senator's eldest son, will deliver the response in behalf of the family.

After this, Legarda will return to the rostrum to formally end the necrological rites and start the public viewing of the remains.

Necrological services are usually held when the Senate is in session, but because Congress is on a two-month break, not all the senators are expected to show up today.

Besides Legarda, Sotto and De Castro, only Senators Robert Barbers, Panfilo Lacson, Rodolfo Biazon, Joker Arroyo, Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Luisa Estrada are in the country.

Cayetano's remains will be brought later in the evening to his hometown of Pateros, Rizal to the Chapel of Memories Memorial Park where they will lie in state until interment on Sunday at 5 p.m.



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Priest killers Manero brods released to custody of priest

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER serving their prison terms, the two brothers of notorious priest killer Norberto Manero are free and helping the prison chaplain at the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa.

The Department of Justice yesterday said Manero brothers Edilberto, 52, and Elpidio, 53, were freed on May 29.

All three Maneros —members of the Civilian Home Defense Force, a paramilitary group during the Martial Law years —had drawn life terms for the killing of Italian missionary Tullio Fa-vali on April 11, 1985.

Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez said Edilberto and Elpidio were now in the "safekeeping" of Fr. Roberto Olaguer, the New Bilibid Prison chaplain. Their life sentences were commuted to 18 to 23 years in 1998 by former President Fidel Ramos. This was further reduced because of their good conduct.

Records show that the Italian missionary was shot 22 times, and that the three brothers then scattered his brains, and ate some of it. Edilberto was the triggerman.

The Maneros were convicted by the Kidapawan, North Cotabato Regional Trial Court on Sept. 4, 1987.

Norberto escaped from the Davao Penal Colony on May 13, 1992 but was rearrested on Nov. 20 of the same year.

During a Congressional probe of his escape, he boasted that he had killed more than 200 persons during his stint with the CHDF.

In 1998, Ramos commuted the sentences of all three. On Dec. 16, 1999, then President Joseph Estrada went a step further and gave Norberto conditional pardon.

The convict was set free, but a public outcry forced Estrada to revoke both the conditional pardon and Ramos' commutation of Norberto's sentence.

Comelec to proclaim 8 solons

THE COMMISSION on Elections is set to proclaim eight new party-list representatives after the Supreme Court partially lifted its order stopping the proclamation of party-list winners.

The Comelec said eight—not seven as previously reported—more party-list group representatives will be taking House seats.

This is because one party-list group, Buhay Hayaang Yumabong (Buhay) had won two seats.

Buhay, which is reportedly backed by the El Shaddai charismatic group, has identified its nominees as Rene Velarde and Mariano Logarta.

The other new party-list representatives to be proclaimed are Mujiv Hataman of Anak Mindanao or Amin, Dioscoro Granada of Alyansang Bayanihan ng mga Magsasaka, Manggagawang Bukid at Mangingisda or ABA and Emerito Calderon of Philippine Coconut Producers Federation and Jose Virgilio Bautista of Sanlakas.
Martin P. Marfil

Espiritu takes oath as envoy

EDGARDO Espiritu, who resigned as finance secretary over alleged corruption under ousted President Joseph Estrada and later testified against him in an impeachment trial, took the oath yesterday as the Philippines' new ambassador to Britain.

Espiritu, sworn in by President Macapagal-Arroyo, also has diplomatic jurisdiction over Iceland and Ireland, a presidential palace statement said.

A former banker, Espiritu served for about 18 months in Estrada's Cabinet until he resigned in January 2000, saying graft and corruption was a serious concern in the administration. *AP*

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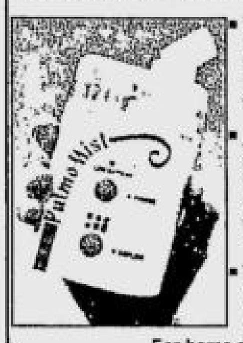

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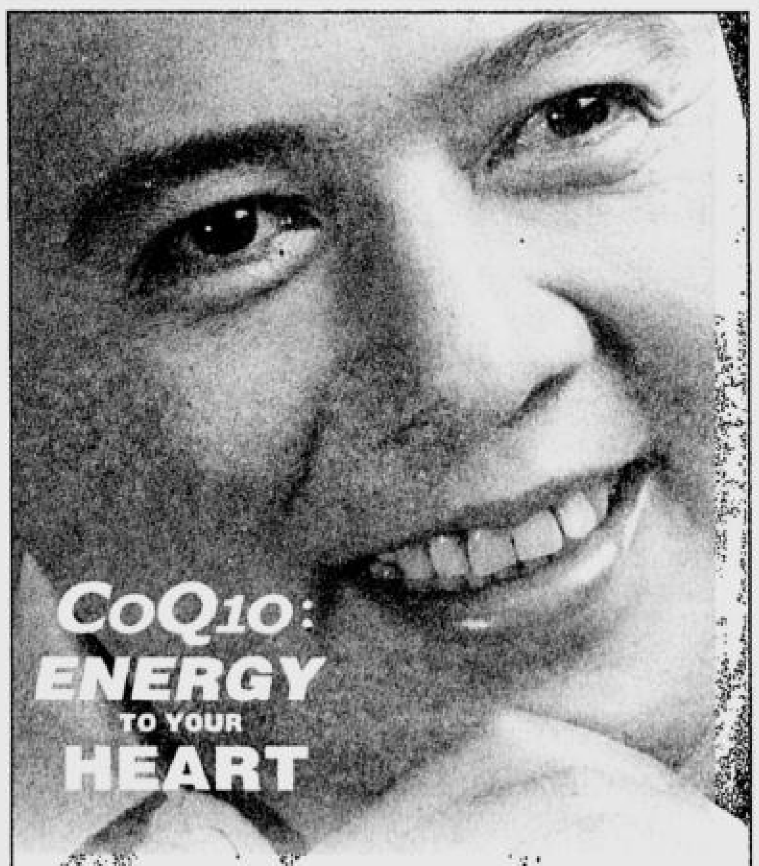

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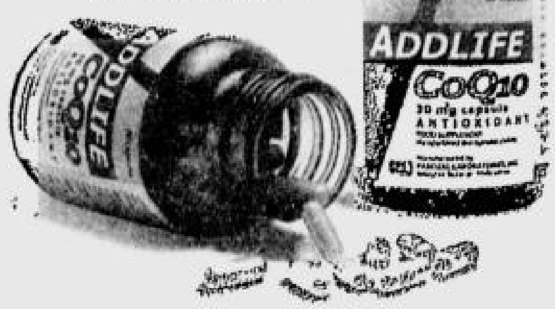

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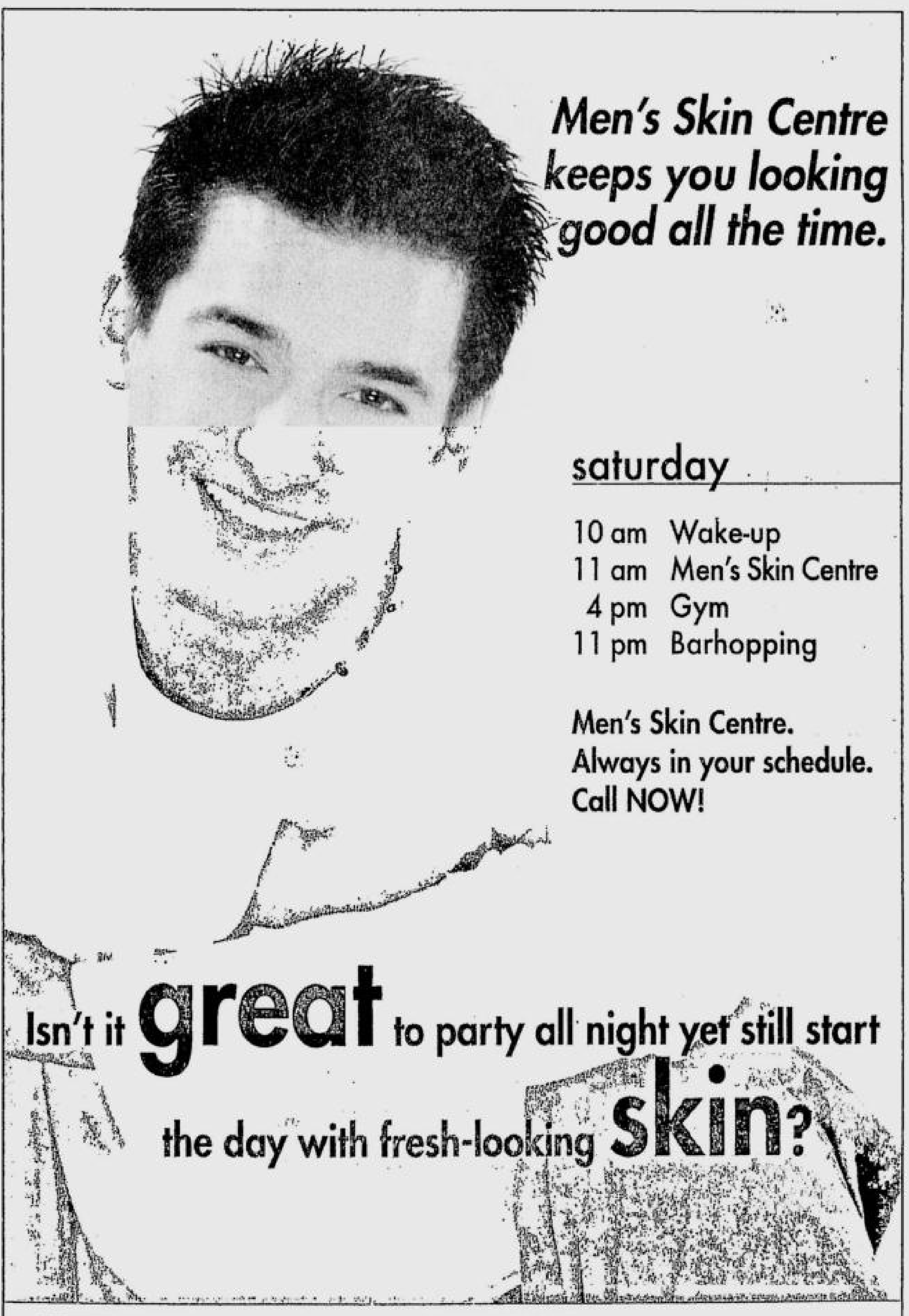

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Concessionaires want guarantees on Naia 3

By Gil C. Cabacungan

ENTREPRENEURS who paid millions of pesos in advance payments for commercial space in the new Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport have organized themselves into a lobby group to ensure that they get to operate their shops once the dispute over the terminal is resolved.

The companies which make up the membership of the Philippine Airport Service Concessionaires (Pasco) had entered into agreements with the Terminal 3 operator, the Philippine International Airport Terminals, Inc. (Piatco).

They reportedly paid millions of pesos in reservation fees on top of advance rentals. Commercial space at Terminal 3 costs P1,000 per square meter a month.

Felisberto Verano, Jr., the group's lawyer, said that around 20 of the 155 companies that entered into concession agreements with Piatco have joined Pasco.

Settlement with Napocor to cut rates, says Meralco

THE MANILA Electric Co. said that the P20 billion payment to the National Power Corp. that it will be passing on to customers could mean an estimated increase in electricity rates of 13 to 14 centavos per kilowatt hour.

But it said the increase will be offset by a reduction by at least 25 centavos per kWh in the cost of its power purchases as a result of the agreement reached over its dispute with Napocor.

On Tuesday, Meralco said it would be passing on to its customers the P20 billion it has to pay the Napocor according to the terms of the settlement of their dispute over the continued validity of a 10-year power supply contract.

Meralco claimed the payment of the P20 billion to Napocor, to be spread out over a period of five years, would actually result in a reduction of electricity rates.

Meralco's chief of utility economics Ivanna de la Peña explained that this would come about because of a provision in the settlement agreement that requires Meralco to have its independent power producers run at minimum contracted levels, or about 85 percent of their generating capacity.

Keeping the IPPs running at those levels will mean a reduction in their rates, or a decrease of 25 centavos per kWh, based on March 2003 rates, De la Peña said.

"In effect, there will be a net reduction to customers in spite of the payment of the P20 billion," she said.

De la Peña also explained that the 13 to 14 centavos estimated increase in rates was not fixed and would vary from month to month.

"We will have monthly calculations as the actual amount of payment would adjust depending on the results of the calculations," she said.

Napocor had claimed that because of Meralco's supply contracts with its affiliated IPPs, Quezon Power Phil. and First Gas Power Corp., the utility failed to meet the minimum purchases from Napocor under the terms of its 10-year supply contract with the state-run power firm.

The P20 billion was a form of penalty payment by Meralco for failing to cover at least 3,600 MW of its monthly electricity demand with supply bought from Napocor between 2002 and 2004.

Quezon Power runs the 470-megawatt coal plant in Mauban town while First Gas owns two natural-gas fired plants with a combined capacity of 1,500 MW. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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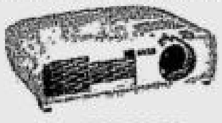
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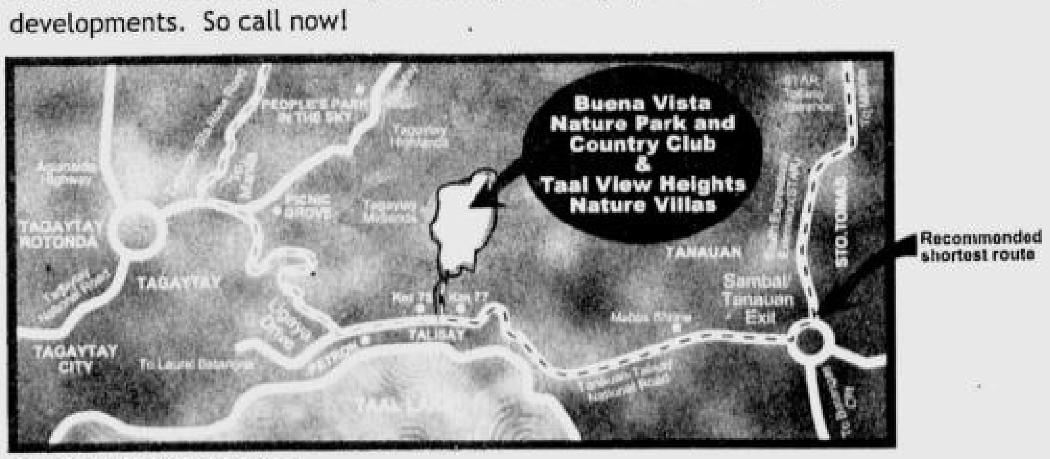

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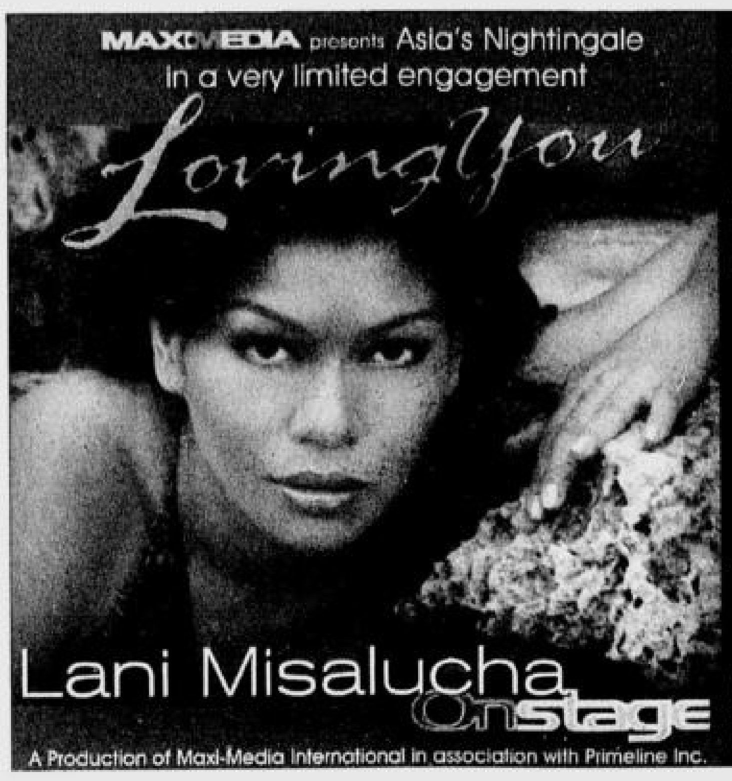
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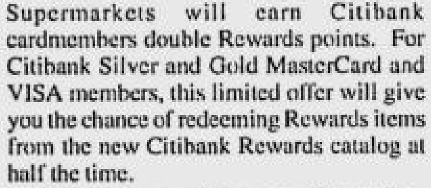

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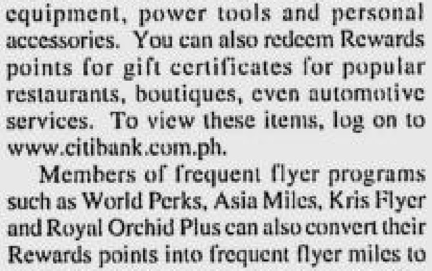

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GMA rating up again

From page A1

to the Social Weather Stations.

Net rating is the difference between those satisfied and those dissatisfied with the performance of Ms Macapagal, who announced on Dec. 30 that she would not be standing for election in May next year. Her party mates are pushing her to change her mind.

The President had the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome to thank. SWS said the public graded her administration highly for its fight against the killer virus. SWS said SARS, which has been placed under control, caused an even greater public anxiety than the war in Iraq.

Malacañang played coy on the results of the survey, copies of which were distributed to reporters.

"You know the stand of the President on surveys. The President says that popularity and favorable ratings come and go, but the President is not distracted by any of these developments. So she'd rather concentrate on just doing her work," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

Told that the President's three-month timetable for big results in the government's renewed anti-drug war jibed with the next round of surveys, Bunye said: "Well the projects of the President, these honest to goodness drives of the President, especially those aimed at what is perceived to be serious problems of the country, are not survey-driven.".

SWS said the survey was based on face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults nationwide from May 28 to June 14. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent and a confidence level of 95 percent.

Rebound

The polling firm said the survey found that 50 percent of the respondents were satisfied and 27 percent were dissatisfied with the general performance of the national administration, for a net satisfaction rating of +23. "This was a strong rebound from March 2003, when only 38 percent were satisfied while 41 percent were dissatisfied, for a net -3," SWS said.

SWS said its new survey found 46 percent were satisfied and 32 percent dissatisfied with the President's performance. This was a marked improvement from the 34 percent satisfied and 48 percent dissatisfied in the SWS survey of March 10-25 when Ms Macapagal got a net rating of -14.

SWS said the new +14 rating was about average for the period since Ms Macapagal took office in January 2001.

Compared to last March, net satisfaction with the President was favorable in Metro Manila (from -20 in March to +18 in June), in the rest of Luzon (from -15 to +12) and in the Visayas (-8 to +35).

Negative rating in Mindanao

The President may have to work harder for Mindanao. It gave her the only negative net rating of -4. The SWS interpreted her net rating in Mindanao as being "less unfavorable." The President spent time in Mindanao on June 10-17.

Among the respondents belonging to the middle-to-upper ABC classes, net satisfaction with the President's performance rose "very much" (from +1 to +47), SWS said. It turned favorable in the mass D class from -13 to +7 and the very poor E class from -23 to +20.

In urban areas, the President obtained a net rating of +22. It was +9 in rural areas. Male respondents gave Ms Macapagal a higher net rating of +20 compared with females who gave her a net +8.

In addition to her handling of SARS, SWS said the increase in public satisfaction with the President was related to somewhat reduced fears of adverse consequences of the Iraq war and the improvements in several quality-of-life indicators that it would soon report out.

SARS scare

SWS said SARS was the most followed news item and had caused more worry to Filipinos than terrorism.

The polling firm found that three-fourths or 72 percent of the respondents closely followed news about SARS compared with two-thirds or 64 percent who followed the war in Iraq. Fifty-five percent watched out for news about the fight against Muslim rebels, while 52 percent were keen on terrorist acts in the Philippines. SWS also found that 52 percent were following the plunder trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

SWS found that 78 percent of the respondents were worried that they or their immediate family members might catch the SARS virus.

SWS found 69 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the government's performance in fighting SARS. With only 12 percent dissatisfied, the Macapagal administration obtained a net satisfaction rating of +58.

It was the highest score among 14 subjects on which the Macapagal administration's performance was graded, SWS said.

Others were: helping disaster victims, +47 from +35 in March; caring for Filipinos in the Middle East danger zone, +38 from +31; fighting terrorism, +28 from +7; foreign relations, +28 from +15; protecting human rights, +28; helping the poor, +27 from +14; reconciliation with communist rebels, +23; fighting common crimes, +19 from -4; reconciliation with Muslim rebels, +19 from +7; helping Mindanao, +11, and telling the truth, +8.

There were two issues in which the administration obtained a negative net rating: fighting inflation, -9 from -26, and fighting corruption, -12 from -24. But still, SWS said, all subjects rated in both March and June surveys "experienced a rise in public satisfaction."

SWS said the survey items were not commissioned but it included these on its own initiative.

Other topics included in the survey were moving the school opening to September, candidates for the 2004 elections, revival of the Kuratong Baleleng case against opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, proposals to amend the Constitution, pyramid scams, proposal to create a new tax authority, landlords' use of force to obstruct agrarian reform and protests against Bt corn.

Palace has no comment on 'transition president'

From page A1

asked not to be named, volunteered the "personal opinion" that "if she runs and wins, she should complete her term."

The official said abbreviating a six-year term would be unconstitutional.

"Maybe during her [new] term, the amendments [to the Charter] could be undertaken," he said, but added that the amendments should be made piecemeal.

The official said Gonzales' scenario was his own idea.

"These are scenarios generated by study groups [and have] never been presented to the President," the official said.

By the official's estimation, Gonzales sincerely believes that Ms Macapagal should run in 2004 and pave the way for a transition to a parliamentary system during her next term.

"You know Bert Gonzales—he speaks his mind. The problem is, his position carries the weight of Malacañang," the official said, adding:

"[But] it is not wrong to come up with such a scenario. You cannot close the door on these scenarios."

The official also said Gonzales offered the "transition president" scenario to lend validity to the proposal to amend the Charter and shift to the parliamentary system.

He said that if the President had not announced her decision not to run in 2004, she would always be suspected of wanting Charter change to extend her term or to run for prime minister.

Ignacio Bunye, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, did not address the matter during his briefing and gave his standard reply only when asked about it.

"The President has stated her position on this matter time and again. I believe it's time we laid this issue to rest," he said.

Asked if Ms Macapagal had asked or would ask Gonzales to shut up, Bunye said: "No, no. The President has stated her position on the matter and I believe this is very clear. And [she] has not changed, she has not wavered on her stand."

5 million votes

But pro-administration congressmen have apparently made up their mind: If the drive to amend the Constitution loses steam before 2004, they will shift gears to ensure the President's victory at the polls.

According to Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (NP, Iloilo City), Ms Macapagal is assured of five million votes from the 87 congressmen urging her to run.

"Do you think congressmen will commit themselves without first checking the sentiments of their constituents?" he said in an interview when asked whether the 87 congressmen who had signed his petition could actually deliver the votes.

Gonzalez, himself a major proponent of Charter change before 2004, earlier sought his colleagues' endorsement of his letter asking Ms Macapagal to run.

Asked about the chances that the President would heed the petition, Gonzalez said: "They have improved a lot."

He cited the case of former President Corazon Aquino, who ran against Ferdinand Marcos in the 1986 "snap" election: "If Cory Aquino ran based on one million signatures, what we have now are five million votes."

Among the signatories is Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura (LP, Western Samar), chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments that was behind the passage of Concurrent Resolution No. 16. The measure, which seeks to convene the Senate and House into a constituent assembly, is now awaiting a vote in the Senate.

In a separate interview, Nachura was asked how he reconciled his signature in the Gonzalez petition and his strong push for Charter change.

"My signature was based on my personal belief that among the 'wannabes,' the President is the best we have," he said.

He also acknowledged that should the Charter change initiative falter in the Senate, pro-administration congressmen would focus their energies on getting Ms Macapagal elected in 2004.

'Reasonable' estimate

Nachura said Gonzalez's estimate of five million votes from the 87 congressmen was "reasonable."

Asked if the estimate was realizable, he said: "That's an average of 60,000 votes per congressman."

"Besides," he added, "I don't think there are only 87 congressmen who want GMA to run."

Nachura welcomed the "transition president" scenario drawn up by Norberto Gonzales.

"That would pave the way for the establishment of a new government under a new Constitution," he said. "That would be good. The President will then go down in history as the only president who had the interest of the nation as her principal consideration."

'Degree of comfort'

In the opinion of the government's chief economic planner, Ms Macapagal should run in 2004 if there is a strong clamor for her to do so.

Speaking with the INQUIRER business staff Wednesday night, Romulo Neri, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, said the President's decision to seek another term would depend on the "degree of comfort."

"If she is comfortable with seeking an extension and if the people are comfortable with her running again, she should run. But if she ... and her people are not comfortable, why force the issue?" he said.

Neri said a survey confirming growing support of her candidacy could change the President's mind.

"Businessmen are generally risk-averse," he pointed out. "If your current manager is doing fine in the company, you don't get a replacement. If I were a businessman, and I feel comfortable with the President at the helm, I would want her to stay." *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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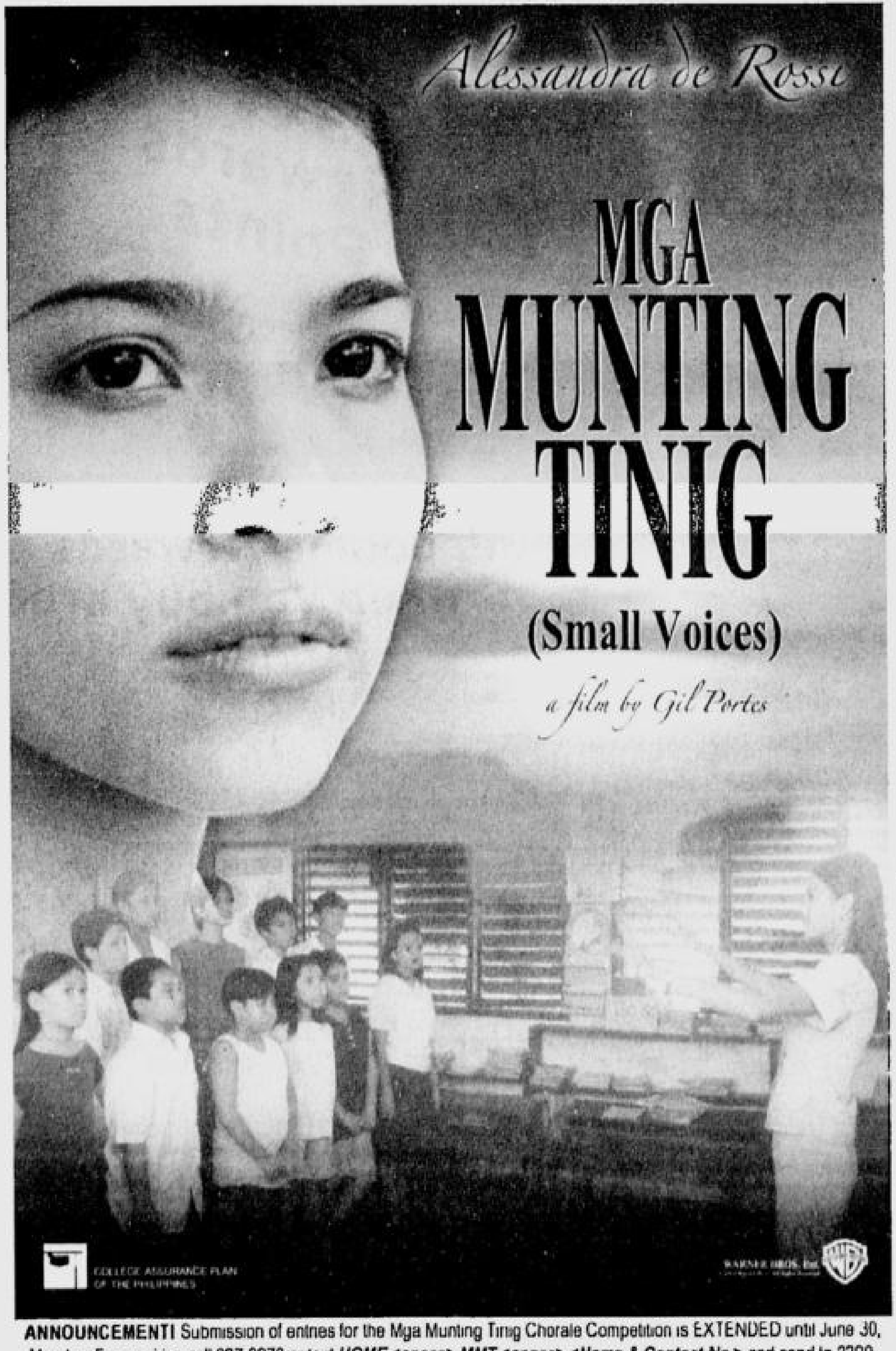

ANNOUNCEMENT! Submission of entries for the Mga Munting Tinig Chorale Competition is EXTENDED until June 30, Monday. For inquiries call 637-3976 or text HOME <space> MMT <space> <Name & Contact No.> and send to 2299. Entry forms are available at SM Cinemas in SM City Manila, SM Sta. Mesa, SM North EDSA, SM Megamall & SM Fairview.

Guingona: Irresponsible trial ...

From page A1

ances that she is focused on the vital and pressing problems facing the nation and not on Charter change or the 2004 [elections]," Guingona said.

Despite the Lakas national directorate's vote in favor of amendments through a constitutional assembly, Guingona remains opposed to the idea.

He again exhibited this resistance, and said he had the support of some sectors in civil society to take to the streets, if needed, against Charter change.

"As [President Manuel L.] Quezon said, my loyalty to my party ends where my loyalty to my country begins," he said.

The Vice President also said the 2004 elections were "a sacred exercise for our people, and surely not a transitional vehicle for anyone or any group's ploy to remove term limits or speed up the possible shift to a parliamentary form of government."

He said the elections should not be allowed to be turned into a "charade" that would not only sow confusion but also further divide the people.

"It is unfortunate that through certain sectors in the media, our people are being made to watch irresponsible trial balloons let loose by personalities promoting [Charter change]," he said.

Gonzales said Wednesday that Ms Macapagal would be the "ideal" transition president because if she runs and wins in 2004, she would be willing to step down midway in her term, in 2007, to pave the way for the full shift to a parliamentary system.

Continuing to assail those behind the campaign to amend the 1987 Constitution, Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday said Gonzales' scenario was "nonsensical" and intended to "muddle the issue."

"Transition government is just a cover or a disguise for the extension of terms" of incumbent elective officials, including Ms Macapagal, the senator told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"The ultimate incentive for putting up a constituent assembly is the extension of terms," he added, referring to the mode of amendment being pushed by Lakas stalwarts led by Speaker Jose de Venecia.

In cahoots

Asked to comment on the President's remark that she was "not engaged" in Charter change for now, Senator Arroyo pointed out that Malacañang was "not disowning" Gonzales or his statements.

In a statement he issued, Arroyo reiterated his contention that Malacañang and the House of Representatives were in cahoots in the Charter change initiative.

He noted that House Concurrent Resolution No. 16, passed by the chamber on March 17, also provides "for a mechanism for the orderly transition from the old form of government [presidential] to the new form [parliamentary], if one should be decided by the constituent assembly."

He said "the mechanism for orderly transition" was "exactly the same as the transition government proposed by the Malacañang study group."

"A play on words," he said.

The senator also said incumbent officials would "naturally" constitute this interim or transition government.

He said this was because the constituent assembly could "simply provide that incumbent officials, as holdover officials, would continue to perform their duties until such time as the officials of the new government are elected and have assumed office."

"Very neat, very simple, very attractive to senators and congressmen. *May utang na loob pa ang taong bayan* (The people will even have a debt of gratitude)," Arroyo said.

He said that while the words "extension of terms" would not be used, "the effect is precisely that—the extension of their terms."

"Every incumbent elective official will be titillated, happy," he added.

On the other hand, Minority Leader Sen. Vicente Sotto, vice chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, said he continues to support the Charter change proposal, provided there would be no extension of terms.

Sotto also said he had not been informed about the July 14 date for the committee to take a vote on the mode it would endorse in amending the Constitution.

Clinging to power

Militant groups accused the President of plotting to stay in power.

"The Filipino people will not allow another four years of economic hardship and political repression under the puppet Macapagal-Arroyo government," said Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

"It is already an open book. To cling to power, the President is playing with the options to run in 2004 and stay as 'transition president' or prime minister in a parliamentary form of government once the Charter is revised before the May polls," the peasant leader said.

The fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, or Pamalakaya, said the President, De Venecia and Gonzales were the "unholy troika" behind the supposed conspiracy to extend Ms Macapagal's stay in power and to effect changes in the Constitution.

Sin urges prayers for Bacani

SAN PABLO CITY—Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin has called for a week of prayer in support of Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani.

"I enjoin the priests, religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Manila to observe a Week of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests," the Cardinal said in a statement distributed to priests.

In the statement, Sin hit the media, saying the "allegation against a revered bishop" had been "stretched beyond proportions, causing so much pain on everybody."

While acknowledging "the necessity to pursue the truth," the Cardinal maintained that "the law of charity must prevail at all times."

He lamented the "mistrust and calumny that is being bred, whether deliberately or not," by public discussion of the scandal.

"Like the Heart of Jesus," Sin said, "we are in sorrow. Yet we also believe that like the Heart of our Lord, this suffering love will be our salvation."

He explained: "It is these trials that will enable us to be more in communion with the Crucified Christ."

The Cardinal proclaimed today, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart day, as "Holy Hour of Penance for the sins of priests and sins against priests." For tomorrow, Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, he ordered public recitations of all 20 mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

"Let us pray for Bishop Ted Bacani," Sin said. "Let us pray for those who have been hurt by this incident."

Finally, the Cardinal appealed to "all the faithful, to assure priests that you love them, that you will not abandon them. Now, more than ever, they need your understanding and support." *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Vatican expected to resolve sex scandal by Sept.

By Blanche S. Rivera

"I THINK this will be all over by September."

Fr. James Reuter, chief of the Catholic Church's National Office of Mass Media, yesterday said the Vatican was likely to issue a ruling on the sexual harassment complaint against Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. in less than three months.

With the announcement, Reuter dismissed earlier reports that Bacani's case could drag on for up to three years.

He explained to reporters during the Roundtable forum at the Manila Hotel that activities in the Vatican usually slowed down at summer time. "Rome traditionally goes dead in July and August because of the heat," he said.

Reuter also said the Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, who had been on the phone with Bacani almost every day for the past week, knew the details and progress of the case "more than any living man."

Bacani could stay in the United States "for as long as he likes," Reuter added, since there was "no commitment on his part" to return to the Philippines.

But if the bishop did return before the Vatican reached a decision, he would not be allowed to make any administrative decisions, according to Reuter, who is also spokesperson for the Apostolic Nunciature.

Bacani left for the United States on June 9 amid allegations that he made sexual advances against his former secretary. He said he was making the trip to get treatment for diabetes and attend to his ailing mother, and that he would be back after three weeks.

Reuter said San Fernando Bishop Antonio Tobias, who was currently running the affairs of the Novaliches diocese, was not allowed to make permanent decisions. "Everything (Tobias) does is instructed by the Vatican."

Not that Tobias was inclined to initiate changes, the spokesperson said. "(He) is a very gentle soul. He would not make any policies that would control the action of the diocese after he is gone as administrator."

Meanwhile, Reuter revealed, the Nunciature has forbidden the Novaliches diocese staff from touching anything in Bacani's room and stopped the laity from releasing a statement or staging a rally in support of Bacani, as "this would only cause division."

Manila Studies conference set

THE MANILA Studies Association Inc., founded in 1989, will convene its 13th annual conference on July 14-15 at the Waldo Perfecto Seminar Room, De La Salle University in Manila.

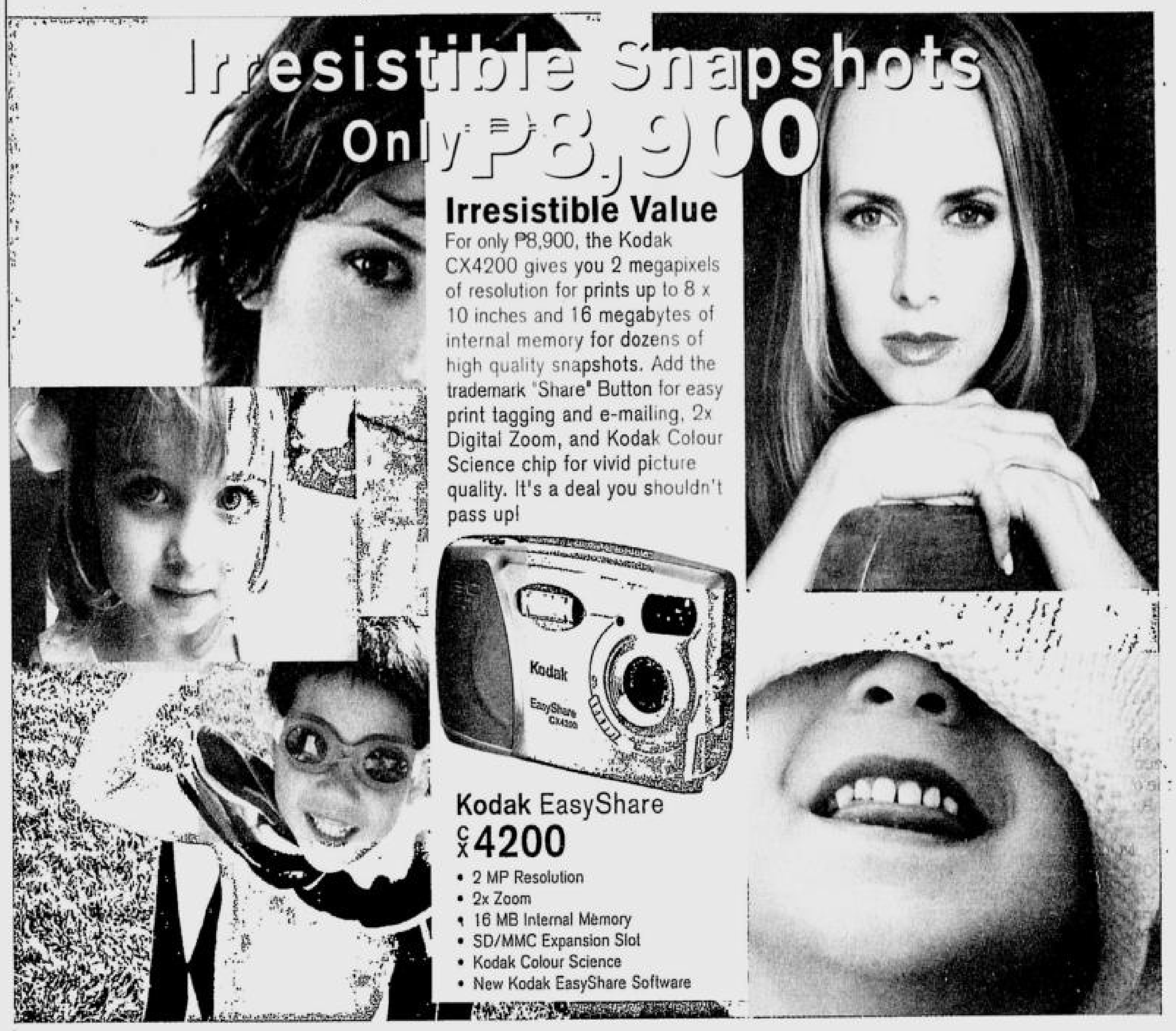
The conference, with the theme "Spanish Manila Through the Centuries, 1571-1898," is co-sponsored by the DLSU Department of History and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Committee on Historical Research.

The following are the speakers: Javier Galvan of the Instituto Cervantes; Regalado Trota Jose, NCCA Committee on Monuments and Sites; Norma L. Alarcon, University of Santo Tomas; Ma. Eloisa P. de Castro, UST; Lorelei D.C. de Viana, National Historical Institute; Reynaldo T. Candido Jr., UST; Fr. Roy Rosales, Archdiocesan Archives of Manila; Cornelio R. Bascara, DLSU; Julie Ann Hallazgo, UST; Rene R. Escalante, DLSU; Ma. Alexandra I. Chua, UST; Filomin Gutierrez, UP; Ma. Luisa T. Camagay, UP; and Ronaldo B. Mactal, DLSU.

During the conference, there will be a special seminar-workshop on the teaching of Philippine history during the Spanish colonial period, with the following as speakers:

Bernardita R. Churchill on the Philippines under Spain (1565-1898), with particular focus on the history of Manila; Digna B. Apilado on teaching the economic history of the Philippines during the Spanish colonial period, and Cristina E. Torres on the teaching of Philippine nationalism.

Interested parties may call Rosemarie, MSA secretariat, at 921-4575 or 926-1347.



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Reyes: Let's have decent housing for each soldier

A DECENT home for every soldier.

This, according to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, is the legacy he wants to leave behind.

Reyes gave the assurance of future housing assistance for armed forces personnel on the eve of the launching of an ambitious long-term off base housing program, which includes the donation of some 600 hectares of military base land where soldier-beneficiaries can build their homes.

The provision of affordable housing for the servicemen and servicewomen of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will be a continuing process until all homeless soldiers will have a roof over their heads in tribute to their invaluable service and sacrifices for our country, Reyes said.

Kicking off the program is the creation of around 1,000 homes and a community complete with basic utilities and amenities on 20 ha that will be apportioned off the property of Camp Riego de Dios in Tanza, Cavite.

A private contractor and developer, Laguna Properties Holdings Inc., a fully owned subsidiary of Ayala Land, Inc., a company known for high-end real estate development, will build the homes and the supporting infrastructure. With land given to them for free and with the participation in the program of Pag-ibig which will allow them to pay off their houses in 25 years, the soldier-beneficiaries need to pay only their new homes.

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Back to square one

EDITORIAL

THE GOVERNMENT'S "big push" against drug pushers has been pushed back even before it could get started, and the administration has no one to blame but itself for it. All of its well-publicized reactions to some horrible statistics showing drug abuse to have grown exponentially in recent years have turned out to be nonstarters.

It began with the offer of Sen. Robert Barbers to resign from the Senate to lead the campaign against illegal drugs which had just received a P1-billion cash infusion from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's profits from lotto. President Macapagal-Arroyo immediately snapped up the offer but said Barbers should do it without leaving the Senate (which could have upset the delicate balance of power there). But this could not be done without violating the constitutional principle of separation of powers. Barbers then changed his mind about giving up his Senate seat, and the President assured him he would still be on top of everything through the exercise of his oversight function as chair of the Senate committee on illegal drugs and law and order.

In the meantime, Barbers gathered together three of his old comrades-in-arms in the Western Police District, led by his former chief Alfredo Lim, and enlisted them in the anti-drug campaign. Upon Barbers' recommendation, the President announced that she was appointing Lim as presidential adviser on illegal drugs and two of his closest aides as directors of a special operations group.

That led to talk about the "Four Aces" leading an elite anti-drugs unit patterned after the legendary "Untouchables" in the United States. And it also led Anselmo Avenido to assert his role as the official mandated by law to fight the drug menace as chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. "There should be no independent moves here," Avenido said. "All actions must be coordinated with the PDEA."

Malacañang had to beat a hasty retreat and affirm that indeed the PDEA remained the principal agency that would carry out the anti-drugs campaign and other groups would have to coordinate with it. Lim acknowledged that as chief of the PDEA Avenido was the "anti-drugs czar."

As if all these contretemps were not enough, the designation of Lim is starting to look like another embarrassing mistake. The former Manila mayor has indicated that among the first things he would do is revive the controversial "shame campaign" he had launched against suspected pushers when he was mayor of Manila. That campaign which was less than a roaring success was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. So even Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay has said the PNP might not go along with such a strategy and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte has said he would refuse to carry out such campaign as it constituted a violation of due process.

Without his spray paint, it seems that Lim would be lost. And without his special squad, what would be left for him to do? It looks like he is headed for the kind of bureaucratic limbo Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte found himself occupying after his designation as anti-crime consultant almost a year ago.

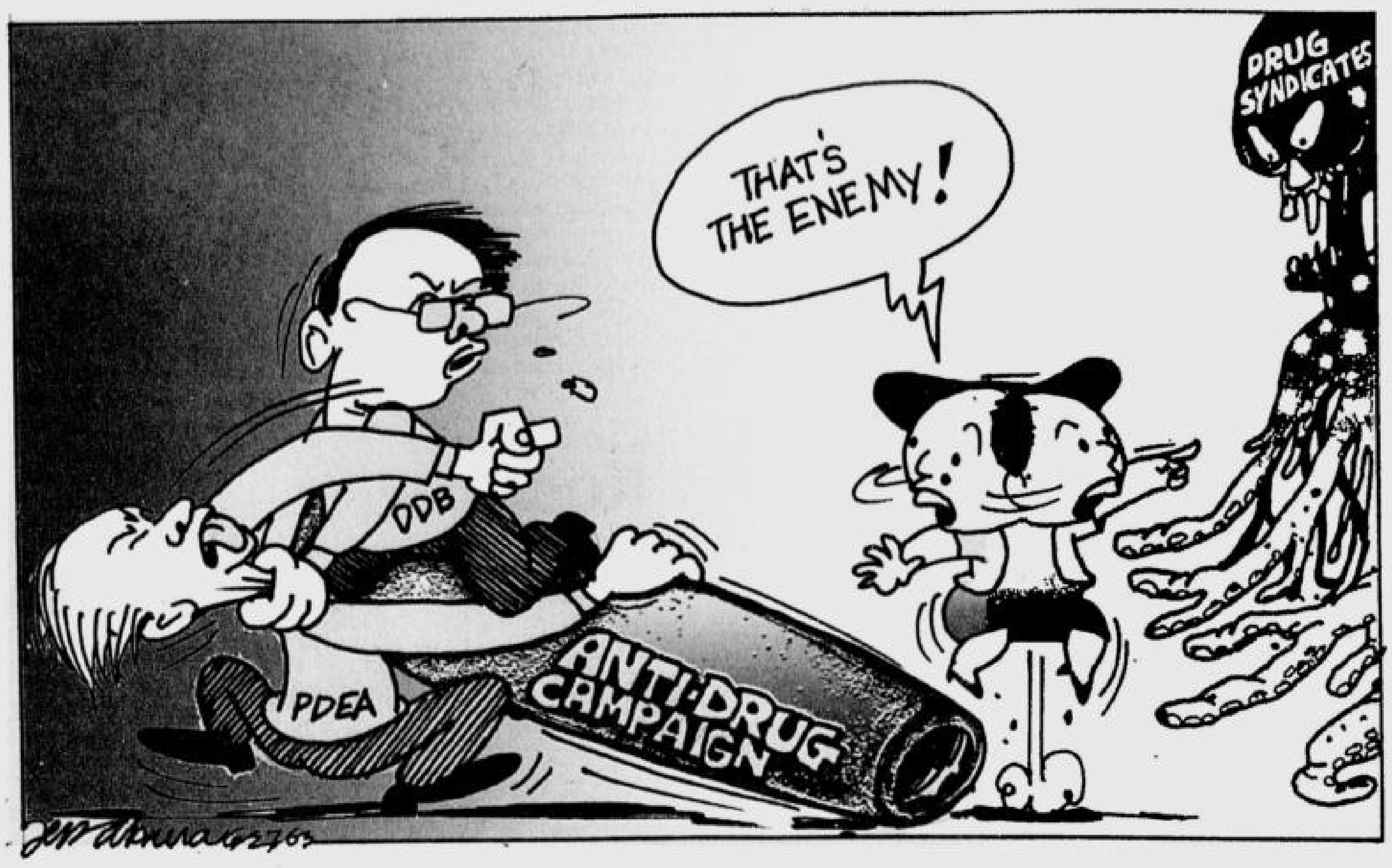
But finding something useful for Lim to do should really be the least of our concerns. What the administration needs to do is to jump-start the campaign against illegal drugs. Putting up the P1-billion fund was a good beginning, but making ill-considered appointments has not moved the campaign forward.

Search and destroy

FOREIGN COMMENT

IN THE LATEST US ground strikes against Iraqi "militants" such as the raid on Falluja, the local people have used signaling systems—including lights and colored flares—when the American forces approach. These signals, says the US command, are evidence of civilian collusion with "Ba'athist fighters" in their midst, further proof that tough action is justified. The citizens of Falluja and elsewhere have a simpler explanation: they need to warn their neighbors to take cover from an invader who, in the words of its commander Lt. Gen. David McKiernan, will "strike hard and with lethal force" whenever it thinks fit. The latest military offensives, with their ambiguous body-counts and dodgy "terrorist" identifications, began to recall the US "search and destroy" operations in Vietnam over 30 years ago.

The Guardian, London



Some questions on the National Artist awards

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

CONGRATULATIONS to the new set of National Artists. It is not their fault that their awards are again marred by controversy—if they had no role in having their families and friends lobby for the awards. It is the fault of the awards-giving bodies: the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). Because of their ineptitude, the luster, respect and credibility of an award that is supposed to honor our outstanding artists, is tarnished and questioned again.

Almost every year, the awards are attended by controversy, unlike in the beginning when the whole nation applauded as one when the early National Artists were named. For who could question the greatness of Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos V. Francisco, Vicente Manansala and Cesar F. Legaspi? But in the later years, as politics, favoritism and ineptitude crept into what should have been purely honorable awards, more and more observers complain and criticize the awards.

As usual, the NCCA defends the procedure of selecting the awardees every time criticisms erupt. The latest was a letter written by Ms Marian Fina C. Yonzon, NCCA executive director, who expressed disappointment over the "inaccuracies" made by the artist Malang in a letter quoted by this column last June 13. She explained in detail how the "peers" of artists made the painstaking process of selecting the winners as a "collegial body." "No one person has the sole authority to decide for or against any nominee," Ms Yonzon wrote.

But it seems that it is her own letter that is inaccurate. For no less than one of the new National Artists, poet Virgilio Almario, (for literature) who denounced the "insertion" by Malacañang of one name among the winners. In his acceptance speech no less, Almario, a former executive director of the NCCA, denounced President Macapagal-Arroyo and "those responsible" for the insertion of Alejandro Roces as National Artist, when he was already eliminated by the "collegial body." Roces was the first education secretary of the present President's father, President Diosdado Macapagal.

And it turns out that the only one man, National Artist Nick Joaquin, nominated Roces. Joaquin may be a National Artist himself, but where is the "collegial body" that Ms Yonzon crows about?

In previous years, Malacañang was also accused of inserting the name of historian Carlos Quirino as National Artist during the Ramos administration and of Ernani Cuenco (for music) during the Estrada administration. Cuenco was reportedly a bosom buddy of Erap, the composer of the melody for the latter's poem "Kahit Magtiis."

They could not decide in what category to place Quirino, for there is no category for history and he is not a literary writer. So they invented a new title, "historical literature" for Quirino—whatever that means.

And that is the principal fault of the NCCA: It cannot decide on the rules and enforce them. It chooses the winners first and then invents the categories for them. This time around, there are categories for "theater design" and "broadcast arts," whatever they mean.

The NCCA can't even decide whether or not to give posthumous awards. It had been discarded before but it has now been revived to accommodate some dead nominees, prompting Malang to exclaim that the "dead are being resurrected." Ms Yonzon countered that "there is only one posthumous award this year (for painter Jose Joya).

Well, you either give posthumous awards or not. *"Iisa lang naman"* is no excuse.

If posthumous awards have been revived, why are Juan Luna, Felix Resurrection Hidalgo and Fabian de la Rosa not National Artists? Who will deny that they deserve to be honored as National Artists? And why not novelist Bienvenido N. Santos, also dead? Is H.R. Ocampo already a National Artist? To many, his abstract paintings are better and more sought after than those of Joya.

A Tagalog poet was chosen National Artist but what happened to Francisco Balagtas and Huseng Batute? If writer-journalist Alejandro Roces is National Artist for Literature, what about painter-writer-journalist Emilio Aguilar Cruz? Who can deny that "Abe" deserves to be up there with the rest of them? If there is "historical literature" why not "journalistic literature"? Hasn't journalism been called "literature in a hurry"? After all, journalism is much harder than the literary writing. The literary writer has the luxury of time; he can take months and years to write a short story or novel, but a journalist only has a few hours, sometimes even less, to write his piece. And many journalistic writings, especially in the genre called "new journalism," are better and more widely read than modern poems, essays, short stories and novels. Besides, the NCCA has invented the category "multi disciplinary." If Aguilar Cruz can't fit neatly into the "Painting" or "Literature" categories, why not the "multi disciplinary category"?

And if the NCCA gave two awards for "Literature" this year, why not three for "Visual Arts"—one each for Malang, Larry Alcala, (both nominated this year) and Hugo Yonzon Jr., a very talented and prolific, but under-rated and forgotten, painter-cartoonist?

All these are cartoonist-painters, are contemporaries, very close friends, and all equally talented and accomplished. All the three deserve to be National Artists.

Drug-crazed

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A FRIEND of mine, a bass player in a band, tells me that for some reason, he always has a run-in with cops. He can't understand it, he says, but just idling before a stoplight alongside a police car has been an open invitation for the cops to stop him and search him. It's happened several times.

It is not helped that the first thing the cops see is his encased bass guitar on his front or back seat, depending on where he put it in his bedraggled state before driving home in his battered car in the wee hours of the morning. The sight of it always makes the cops curious, and abusive. *"Nagda drugs ka, ano* (You take drugs, don't you)?"—they say. It is not a question, it is an accusation. The equation seems to be: musician equals drug user. Or worse, pusher.

Every time they ask him to open the back of his car and they flash a light into it, he feels the pearls of his manhood blocking his throat. It is not because he has jute or shabu there. It is because the cops are bound to find jute or shabu where there was none. It's happened before to other musicians, or Chinese-looking individuals, whichever come first. He always expects to hear the triumphant cry that they have found a pouch underneath his tire wrench.

So far they haven't. The cops have confined themselves to taking their sweet time searching him and relishing his discomfiture. Every time he gets through something like this, he feels angry and humiliated, but can't do a thing about it.

His is the face I see in all this talk about waging a war on drugs. The news about the Four Aces sallying forth to extirpate drug pushers does not fill me with relief, it fills me with dread. I recall that Alfredo Lim distinguished himself some years ago by painting the houses of suspected drug pushers red in his perverted version of a Biblical Passover. "Love is a many-splendored thing" is not what I expect to hear from the lips of these Four Aces, "power is a many-headed hydra" is what I do. They like to quote Sylvester Stallone's line that crime is the disease, they are the cure. If so, then the cure is infinitely worse than the disease.

I have two kids, but I'll take my chances with drugs waiting to waylay them anytime than with these people offering to protect them. The odds are so much better in their favor with the first than with the second.

Only the other day, our paper reported a once prominent Swiss-Filipino businessman, 66-year-old Rene Knecht, who has been languishing in jail since he was arrested on drug charges 10 months ago. Knecht has been demanding a drug test since he was incarcerated, saying his asthma prevents him from taking any drugs—other presumably than prescription ones—but he has yet to be given one. He claims harassment and extortion.

The PNP stands by the findings of the Cainta police, saying they have the goods on him. But the problem precisely is one of credibility. The PNP's record in this respect has not been outstanding. Nor indeed the NBI's. We do not know the real score, pun liberally intended, in the Knecht case, we probably never will. But we do know to what lengths the authorities will go to cover up a mistake, honest or not.

To this day, Reynaldo Wycoco is still at pains to pin down Acsa Ramirez for the crime she accused her superiors of simply because Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo made the mistake of lumping her among the criminals she was parading in Malacañang. If Ramirez's case had not taken on the prominence, or scandalous proportions, it did, she might even now be keeping the company of fellow inmates rather than that of her loved ones.

The Four Aces' credibility in enforcing the law is little helped by the fact that their very existence violates the law. Robert Barbers, who is a senator, has no business being an executive officer, in the same way that Noli de Castro, who is also a senator, has no business being a TV commentator. It flouts the separation of the branches of government, as monumental a transgression as you can get in a democratic society. Franklin Drilon, who knows his law, is right about that. All the Four Aces' defenders do by going through all sorts of legal contortions to justify Barbers' role there is to show us the kind of legal contortions they are going to take to justify illegal arrest and detention. If they cannot be deterred by so formidable a fetter as the separation of powers, they cannot be deterred by such "niceties" (as Lim has been known to call them) as civil rights.

What scares the hell out of me in all this is that GMA has already put the military on top of everything by making the "war against terror" the cornerstone of her national policy. Indeed, the main pillar of her "strong republic." To now put the police alongside it by making the "war against drugs" yet another cornerstone of national policy, or indeed another pillar of the "strong republic," that is absolutely frightening. That is a recipe for a police state, in every sense of the term.

If our history has anything to teach, it is simply that the real terrorists in this country are not to be found in the gullies of the Mountain Province or the forests of Basilan but in the corridors of government. If our history has anything to teach, it is that the real peddlers of dangerous substances in this country are not to be found among the urban poor of Payatas or the lumpen proletariat of Sampaloc, but among those who propose to screw civil liberties to give us peace and order.

There is a drug that addles the brain more surely and swiftly than shabu, as I know from seeing my friends who have gotten into government. That is unbridled power.

As that goes, it's not hard to see where we'll find the truly drug-crazed. It's not in the houses "Dirty Harry" likes to paint red.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Like fishes out of the water

COMMENTARY

Junefe Gilig Payot
Institute on Church and Social Issues

WHEN Typhoons Chedeng and Egay came, what immediately came to my mind was how the recently relocated families in one of the resettlement sites in Bulacan were going to survive the storms in their makeshift houses. The houses were really mere patchworks of irregularly shaped pieces of wood and old cellophane sheets salvaged from their demolished homes in Metro Manila. I will think of them whenever it rains.

Bulacan is host to several relocation sites where people who used to live in various slum areas of Metro Manila struggle to start anew. I recently went there to invite some community leaders to a focus group discussion (FGD) on their condition a week before Typhoon Chedeng came.

Some relocatees were lucky because they had ready-made house and lot packages when they were relocated. But according to these "lucky" bunch, *"Bahay lang ang nagbago. Pero mas mahirap ang buhay dahil walang hanapbuhay* (Only our houses have improved; our lives have worsened because we lost our jobs)."

Indeed, many of them lost their jobs and sources of livelihood when they were relocated. Some had to quit their jobs in Metro Manila because transportation expenses now ate up much of their day's wages. Some were fired simply because they could no longer make it on time to their workplaces. But they cannot find new sources of income in Bulacan.

What the relocated families urgently need is livelihood. The government promised them this and that is why many of them agreed to be relocated there. But months, or for some, years after relocation, no sustainable livelihood program is in place in any of the relocation sites. The government workers managing the relocation sites themselves lament the fact that the higher-ups keep bringing people to the relocation sites even though some important basic services as well as livelihood opportunities are lacking.

But count on the poor to make funny commentaries on their own sorry state. During the FGDs, one relocatee said that a pair of *kabirs* (imported chickens) were given to selected families by the government to start a poultry microenterprise. Everyone was excited and relieved that finally there was some attempt at livelihood restoration. But it failed miserably because they didn't know how to raise the *kabirs*. Moreover, he said that they couldn't even feed themselves, how then could they feed a pair of imported chickens? Besides, the *kabirs* ate their plants. So the relocatee explained matter-of-factly, *"Inuubos nila ang mga halaman namin kaya inubos rin namin sila* (They ate all our plants so we ate them, too)!"

Everyone had a good laugh at his remark. I laughed, too as I thought about how the *kabirs* ended up on the dining table, feeding them for a day or two. It was, I supposed, a welcome, even if only temporary, relief from the daily monotony of plain rice meals. How the kids must have loved it! Eating a whole chicken at home beats going to Jollibee or McDonald's, which they couldn't afford anyway.

And how they must have struggled for months to keep themselves from killing the chickens for food until they finally didn't have anything else to eat. It was a struggle that I think fully symbolizes their daily struggles for survival in their new homes.

Another relocatee shared that during the first few months after their relocation, there were several homicide cases in the area. But she explained casually that it was simply their way of introducing themselves to each other! It's difficult to buy her disturbingly morbid explanation of the killings but there is truth to it. When people from different places of origin are put together in one place, conflicts are sure to follow. And rebuilding social capital and social cohesion is difficult.

Another tragicomic story that came out from our FGDs was the death of a man in one of the relocation sites supposedly from water deprivation because of lack of access to water at the site. The news reached a party-list representative in Congress and an informal investigation was made. It was found out later that in fact, the man drowned when he swam in the river because it was so hot that day and there was no water at the site. But the smart alecks who spread the exaggerated account insisted that they were still right in saying that he died from deprivation of water!

Considering their hardships, one would not be surprised if they are already inured to their sorry conditions and to the unfulfilled promises of the government. Sometimes they are forced to exaggerate or fabricate stories just so people will listen to them.

The poor by definition, do not have much to start with. So it is almost impossible to take anything from them. But something can be taken from them—livelihood, social networks and perhaps, hope—as these relocation stories showed. Like a dislocated bone, it will take years before the relocatees will be healed of the social and economic wounds inflicted on them, if they will ever get healed.

Indeed, for many of them who used to live off the sea in Malabon and Navotas before they were relocated to the hills of Bulacan, one could say that, they are like fishes taken out of the water.

Marines to leave or stay in Okinawa

FEATURE

Linda Sieg

NAHA, Japan—Yoshi Kagami was a young woman of 26 when some 140,000 fellow civilians, many forced to commit suicide by fanatical Japanese soldiers, died in the Battle of Okinawa, one of the bloodiest battles of World War II.

The octogenarian resident of Japan's southernmost island says she isn't sorry the United States won the war.

But almost six decades later, she thinks it's time for the Marines to leave.

"I don't think we need them here, we have our own Japanese Self-Defense Forces," said Kagami, just days before the 58th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Okinawa on June 23.

"But I don't think they will leave." Once a proud, independent kingdom with a rich culture and its own language, Okinawa has been trapped in a strategic triangle with Japan and the United States ever since Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in the port of Naha with his "Black Ships" 150 years ago.

Perry then sailed to Tokyo to demand Japan to open diplomatic and commercial ties with Washington.

"Perry saw Okinawa as a geopolitical strategic point to cover all of East Asia and tried to use it as a lever and a wedge to move Japan into submission," columnist Yoichi Funabashi wrote in the Asahi Shimbun newspaper recently.

A century and a half after Perry, the top Marine in Okinawa says the island is still key to America's ability to respond to regional threats, including communist North Korea.

"The simple fact is, it's closer to more important things than any other place," Lieutenant General Wallace C. "Chip" Gregson told Reuters in an interview.

Speculation that most of the 17,000 Marines based on Okinawa may be shifted elsewhere as part of a global realignment of US forces has raised residents' hopes that the American military presence may finally shrink substantially.

Okinawa—Japan's poorest prefecture and a two and a half hour flight from Tokyo—has long resented bearing what many see as an unfair burden for US-Japan security ties.

The anger is targeted as much at Tokyo for treating the prefecture like a neglected stepchild as at Washington.

With about one percent of Japan's land area and population, Okinawa is home to 75 percent of the area used for US bases in Japan and some 60 percent of the US military personnel.

Periodic crimes by US servicemen, including the 1995 rape of a 12-year-old girl, have sparked outrage, and memories of past misdeeds run deep. "Frankly, I want them to leave," said Tomiko Kohatsu, 41, grasping her small daughter's hand.

"I don't have any positive thoughts toward them." Some Okinawan residents, however, fear damage to the local economy if the US military—the island's second-largest source of income after tourism—shrinks its presence significantly.

Others say they feel safer knowing the Americans are helping to defend Japan. "I don't like the incidents, so I wish the bases weren't here, but they are protecting us, so I feel safe," said Chika Arakaki, 18.

Back in Tokyo, talk of withdrawal prompts concerns about Washington's commitment to the US-Japan alliance, the bedrock of Japanese postwar diplomacy and security policy.

A withdrawal "might send an unfortunate message to North Korea and to China, and might create a loss of confidence among many Japanese people toward the United States," Kunihiko Saito, a former Japanese ambassador to the United States, told Reuters.

US officials have denied media reports that most of the Marines could be moved to Australia or elsewhere in the region.

"As far as moving everyone someplace, that would be moving us away from the most important interests in Asia instead of toward the most important interests in Asia," Gregson said.

But Gregson and others acknowledge that changes may lie ahead as the US military seeks to improve its ability to cope with modern threats of terrorism and rogue states.

"The reason the Marines stayed in Okinawa long after reversion (when the United States returned Okinawa to Japanese sovereignty in 1972) had to do with three great items—location, location, location," US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told Japanese media in Tokyo earlier this month.

"But...the Department of Defense is going to a more global approach in these matters, and who knows where that will lead us," Armitage said, adding that any changes would not be sudden.

Shifting the Marines from Okinawa would remove a major irritant in US-Japan ties, although experts worry that a decision to do so now would be ill-timed given North Korea's current standoff with Washington over its nuclear arms ambitions.

First Lieutenant Ian Fletcher, preparing his platoon for an exercise in urban battle tactics, said the Marines might be able to do their job better somewhere else.

"Staying or leaving doesn't really affect me or my Marines, if we find a different base with suitable training areas—Guam, Hawaii," said Fletcher—now the same age as Yoshi Kagami was when World War II drew to a close. "We can stay, but the politics sometimes affects our ability to train."

REUTERS

Annual reports and historians

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

EXCEPT for interested stockholders or members of Congress scrutinizing the annual budget, nobody reads Annual Reports issued by various government agencies and private business. For example, each telephone comes with the Annual PLDT report that, in our home, remains unread in its envelope. My parents never took the trouble to look at the charts or even the handsome pictures of its Board of Directors, but being a compulsive reader I took the trouble to scan through them. These documents, which seem to be a useless waste of time and money to many of us today, are vital to the work of a historian so many years, or centuries, later. I don't know how many copies of the two-volume 1908 Report of the Philippine Commission to the Secretary of War was printed in Washington by the US Government printing Office, I don't know how many people actually read the report from cover to cover, many remain on the shelves of many university libraries crying out to be read, but then who needs data almost a century old? Only historians and poor students forced to do research papers using these sources.

I arrived in Japan without a basic knowledge of the language or its writing system, thus my appetite for reading anything in the Western alphabet has taken ridiculous proportions—I now find myself reading the backs of milk cartons and bus tickets! To feed this hunger, and also find a non-drug antidote to insomnia, I finally got myself to open the 1908 Report of the Philippine Commission and discovered that these thick volumes contained all reports from various secretaries and bureau directors in the American-held Philippines. Part 2 opens with the report of the Department of the Interior and is dated Sept. 1, 1908. The previous year he had already reported on Mindoro, Palawan and Agusan and thus narrated the results of an inspection trip that took him to Amburayan, Lepanto, Bontoc and Nueva Vizcaya. This was a trip that would wear out anyone today, but considering that they had to travel on foot or on horseback through rivers and mountains this must have been quite an adventure.

There are comments on the various roads and trails that go up north from the capital, notes on anthrax in Bauco, malaria in Cervantes, etc. The Secretary also explained how he disbursed a "Special fund for the promotion of friendly relations with non-Christian tribes and the Suppression of Head-Hunting." Six thousand pesos was mostly spent for feasting and representation:

"When an American official visits an Igorot or Ifugao chief, the latter almost invariably holds a cañao or feast in honor of his arrival, and when an American official invites an Igorot or Ifugao chief to visit him it is obviously incumbent upon him to return the compliment, but if he were obliged to supply food and drink for several thousand hungry guests for a period of two to three days at his own expense, these gatherings would necessarily be somewhat burdensome."

Banaue was the site for a gathering of important tribal leaders and the Americans had, at great expense and difficulty, provided three carabaos and two cows to feed 3,000 people. It must have been an impressive event, different groups came in their best costumes and ornaments all heralded by the sound of gansas (gongs), chanting and rhythmic dancing. The men stuck their spears in the ground upon their arrival but retrieved these quickly at the slightest sign of (real or imagined) trouble. The interior secretary was very pleased and reported that no untoward incidents occurred (probably because there was not too much drinking?) and that it resulted in the meeting of various tribes in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The same thing was done in Banaue and Kiangan and we now know where the special fund went.

More interesting was the introduction of Western sports and the promotion of annual athletic contests in an attempt to replace headhunting:

"While there may seem to be little connection between athletic sports and public order among head-hunters, it must be remembered that head-hunting is regarded by many of those who engage in it in the light of a sport, and serves as an outlet for superfluous animal spirits which might profitably be directed into other channels.

"There already exists among the Bontoc Igorots and the Ifugaos a custom of occasionally settling disputes between rancherias by holding wrestling matches instead of by fighting them out, and this fact has been taken advantage of in inaugurating the field days above referred to.

"In the present instance there were held running races, lance throwing contests, tugs of war, wrestling matches, and other athletic contests, including several peculiar to these Igorots. There was no lack of contestants: competition was extremely keen, and wild is a mild term to apply to the enthusiasm of the friends of successful contestants, while losers usually took their discomfiture quite philosophically. The superb physical development which is the rule among these wild men resulted in many very creditable performances."

It was hoped that these athletic contests and the accompanying feasts would work on the vanity and energy of warriors and make them less enthusiastic for head-hunting. Good P.R. was one way the United States penetrated the Cordilleras in a way the Spaniards never could.

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Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Maidless

HIGH BLOOD

Naty Lapuz-Templo

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

WHEN Gloria and Perla, my faithful maids of several years, asked to go home to the Visayas last summer to attend their barangay fiesta, I confidently took over the household. (Not that I readily agreed to let them leave together—for I tried to negotiate with them to go one after the other, but they pleaded and pleaded and pleaded until I relented.)

Well, I managed to cook, wash clothes, clean up and shop for grocery in the United States every time I visited my daughter Terry and her family there, so why could I not do the same here? Besides, it is not wise to admit, to the help especially, that you cannot do what they do. You should make them sense that they are not indispensable, and that you can take over their work any time, right?

The morning they left, I spent some time in the kitchen (Gloria's territory), checking our supply of garlic, onions and ginger. (We may run out of bread and butter, but never of these health-giving spices.) Satisfied that we had enough provisions till kingdom come, I surveyed the pots and pans and the assortment of plastic food containers in their racks, and decided I would rearrange them, as I would feel more comfortable in an area that bore my personal touch. With growing excitement I ticked off in my mind the other things I would do: change the plant on top of the upright freezer; relocate the cooking oil, soy sauce, vinegar and other condiments; prepare lunch (*bangus*, *sinigang* and veggie pochero); and do the laundry. I was beginning to marvel at my own efficiency.

First, I took out a pack of *bangus* slices to thaw. Oh, oh, the freezer needed my personal touch, too. Although all the fish were at the bottom rack, I wanted a more orderly arrangement of the *tilapia*, *hasa-hasa* and *maya-maya*, so I proceeded to re-stack them. I did the same with the chicken packs (drumsticks, wings, *tinola* cut) in the upper shelf, as well as the breakfast food at the top. My fingers were getting stiff and numb but, hey, what housewife does not go through such unease once in a while?

So, where was I? Okay, I was putting out the *bangus*. I went over to the counter and reached for a deep pan to thaw the fish in when I accidentally knocked down the pan covers resting in a rack, and they all came tumbling down to the sink with a crash.

So I started looking for some plastic bags to put the junk which the little accident had revealed. I could not find any. I had to open all the cans and boxes in the other shelves, which I did not mind really, for in so doing I could make a mental note of their contents (rice, sugar, corn starch, salt). I felt like a new office employee orienting herself to the available stocks of paper, pencils, ball pens, markers, clips and such in the supply room. Eventually I found the bags (grocery bags and bread bags, plastic bags and paper bags), pushed to the back-most part of a shelf, and bundled together in a disorderly way. I must tell Gloria to keep them always neat and tidy, I muttered, and I refolded and classified the 50 or so bags according to size and make.

After rearranging the pots and pans, I fixed the food containers in another rack, putting aside the torn ones for the garbage bin. At this point, my youngest daughter Margie, who had opted to work at home that day, offered to help. I let her wash the dirty dishes. I was now sweating a river from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. Although it felt good to shed some of the cholesterol buildup from my system, having my shirt stick so tenaciously to my upper torso was most uncomfortable. I needed a change of clothes, or risk catching one of the viruses responsible for a host of respiratory infections.

Omigosh! It was almost lunchtime! I asked Margie to cook the rice pronto, while I started preparing the *sinigang*. (Luckily, my husband and another daughter, Chingbee, had late breakfasts and did not mind getting their noon meal even later.) I only had time to slip a clean hand towel inside the back of my shirt. Ah, I felt better.

With Margie slicing the onions (and crying in the process), the tomatoes and the ginger for the *sinigang*, I went out to the backyard to pick some *camias* fruit. Our dog Yahoo met me at the door, yelping, jumping and bumping my legs in excitement.

Since I had no more time to make the veggie *pochero* as I had planned, I fried some meatless *lumpia* directly from the freezer. By 1 p.m. my husband, Margie and I were having lunch, and Chingbee was leaving for the office with her lunch bag. Afterwards, Margie again volunteered to clean up, and I escaped to my bedroom to rest.

Fast forward to (maidless) Day 5. By now I had fallen into a simple routine, which, alas, did not include washing clothes (the machine only takes care of the soaping, rinsing, spinning; you have to do the rest of the laundry process). Oh well, Perla did say—as part of her bargaining plea before I reluctantly agreed to let her go—not to touch the laundry for she would take care of it upon her return in 10 days.

Apart from the kitchen, I had concentrated my energies in certain parts of the house that needed cleaning and tidying up, such as the master bedroom. It took me at least four hours to clean the master bedroom alone, would you believe? After fixing the bed, I dusted the headboard where a number of books, pamphlets and magazines were (still are) stacked. I would pick a pamphlet at random and get absorbed in "Growing Herbs in Pots," or in "The New Cure for Ageing." At the foot of the bed, piles of the INQUIRER were waiting to be retired to the garage, but I just had to reread something here and there, and I would end up squatting on the floor beside them until my buttocks ached. Then I realized that I was supposed to clean.

Fast forward to (maidless) Day 9. I noted with dismay that some of my plants were drooping like a roomful of journalism students listening to a science-cum-math lecture at 2 p.m. The slight rainfall of the previous days failed to enliven them, so I dragged the 30-meter-long water hose across the garage and soaked them, hopefully, to their roots.

Today, the home front buzzes quietly and efficiently once more, thanks to old reliable Gloria and Perla. I, too, am back to normal mode, that is, catching up on my e-mail, solving crossword puzzles, writing articles, doing some apostolate. And I now have a new respect for anyone who spends the whole day doing the housework—and enjoys it.

Naty Lapuz-Templo, in her 60s, is retired from the government service and now writes for women's magazines.

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Distorting the facts about the Marinduque disaster

LETTERS

WE find it ridiculous how an NGO has conveniently utilized a positive action by the government in the rehabilitation of Marinduque to condemn the President and the DENR secretary's political will in adopting a policy toward the revitalization of the mining industry to address poverty, particularly in the countryside. (PDI, 6/13/03) LRC-KSK has found a clever way of distorting the facts about the Marcopper tragedy and using these to further its long time advocacy against foreign investments and other developmental activities.

The public has been misinformed by this and other political groups about how the Marcopper incident was blown out of proportion to satisfy their vested interests and how many of them have benefited out of the tragedy to the detriment of the community residents, the company, the government and the industry as a whole. Notice how they continue misinforming the public that the children's sickness was caused by the tailings when this is NOT as categorically admitted by a doctor from UP PGH during one of the last hearings on Marcopper conducted in the Senate. Notice also how they are establishing a frame of mind about how mining companies encroach on communities when the truth is that mining activities are undertaken in remote uninhabited areas and that mining operations when they get started normally attract people that eventually establish the communities at the minesite.

Placer Dome and Marcopper through a multi-partite group has compensated and are compensating the people affected by the accident. The series of events that happened after the calamity and how it has become highly politicized is not anymore within the control of the concerned companies and LRC-KSK is supposed to know that since they have been active there. Now that there is government money for the cleanup study, LRC-KSK is questioning the government's action as if the money to be utilized is theirs.

The mining industry's contribution to the economy cannot be overemphasized. It has been providing direct and indirect employment to thousands of Filipinos and has provided basic services such as housing, hospitals, schools and other amenities to thousands of communities all over the country. The multiplier effects of these are enough to substantiate the fact that the industry is a catalyst for development. Of late, the industry has planted more than 4 million trees in mined out areas that are progressively being rehabilitated. Mining companies have already internalized social and environmental concerns in their operations.

The business community, the academe, the government and even the legal circles now very well know LRC-KSK's agenda. There are now very few people who recognize the group and we believe that it is only a matter of time before they fade into oblivion.

—NELIA CANLAS-HALCON,
executive vice president,
Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, Rm. 204 Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

MMDA and Metro floods

THIS pertains to the letter of Clemente G. Bautista Jr. of Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment last June 7, 2003 ("MMDA can't solve flood problem").

Public interest compels us to correct certain inaccuracies in his letter. Contrary to what Bautista claimed, all the major pumping stations in Metro Manila are operating at full capacity: 12 in Manila, two in Pasay and one in Makati.

There are two ongoing major flood control projects in Metro Manila: (a) The CAMANAVA Flood Control Project which will serve Caloocan City, Malabon City, Navotas and Valenzuela City; and (b) the Metro Manila Flood Control Project West of Manggahan Floodway.

The cleaning and declogging of drainage lines and waterways are not stop-gap solutions but rather are integral component of our regular maintenance system. As of end of May 2003, we have cleaned/declogged a total of 20 kilometers of *esteros* and rivers, 16 kilometers of drainage mains and 167.5 kilometers of drainage laterals or *"imburnal."*

There are other flood control related support activities that the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority is simultaneously undertaking. To cite a few:

(a) Removal of obstructions and encroachments along waterways.

(b) Relocation of informal settlers from areas considered as "danger zones" like under bridge spans.

(c) Public information.

Bautista pointed out correctly that flooding is aggravated by the garbage problem and we are well aware of it. In fact, in all our announcements and advisories in our weekly program "MMDA On The Road" and in other forums, we never fail to stress the ill effects of indiscriminate dumping of garbage into the waterways.

Finally, Chair Bayani Fernando's earlier forecast that there would be a 50-percent reduction in floods in the metropolis was neither wishful thinking nor cheap propaganda. It may not be cause for jubilation, but nonetheless at the height of typhoon Chedeng last May, a lot of people including those in media thought that the MMDA did a pretty good job at controlling flooding in areas most prone to inundation as either the water receded faster or the flood levels were lower than in previous years. And there were areas that did not get flooded at all like Buendia in Makati City.

—CESAR S. LACUNA,
deputy chair,
Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, MMDA Building, Edsa corner Orense St., Guadalupe, Makati City

Teachers protest redistricting

WE would like to invite attention to how the Candon school district of the Department of Education has been divided and now is a separate division when its redistricting is illegal.

Candon District does not meet the requirements for redistricting since it has only about 250 teachers and the guidelines are very clear that there should be 750 in a district. There should have been consultation with the teachers, but there was none!

Are we not supposed to be united and not divided? Are we going to spend so much just to satisfy our politicians? Our government now is supposed to be abide by legal and moral guidelines. Are we going to tolerate this?

—WYNONA PAYUMO,
Candon City, Ilocos Sur

DOTC consultants not 'outsiders'

THIS refers to Ramon Tulfo's column last June 12, 2003 regarding allegations that "DOTC outsiders" like retired Police Generals Cecilio Penilla and Thompson C. Lantion are throwing their weight around at the Department of Transportation and Communications.

I take exception to such baseless allegations for the following reasons:

Generals Penilla and Lantion are consultants of the DOTC and its Secretary. As such they discharge duties under my direction. Contrary to the allegations that they interfered in the operations of the DOTC, General Lantion is the DOTC spokesperson and acts as special assistant while General Penilla is a general consultant. As DOTC spokesperson, General Lantion is authorized to secure information and documents regarding programs, projects and other matters relative to the operation of the DOTC for dissemination of information to the public. As for General Penilla, he performs specific functions as directed by me.

Again, contrary to your misinformation, all orders and directives are issued only by me.

As regards project studies and programs of the DOTC, sectoral undersecretaries handle the same. However, I, by way of supervision and control, may direct Generals Lantion and Penilla as consultant or any other official of the DOTC to review, evaluate and make recommendations on the appropriate actions to be undertaken.

To the best of my knowledge, both consultants have never pressured anyone, much more contractors and bidders, to participate or back out as alleged in Tulfo's column for any consideration, monetary or otherwise.

I have known both Generals Lantion and Penilla for almost 35 years and they have earned for themselves the reputation for honesty, integrity and dedication to sterling performance in government service.

—LEANDRO R. MENDOZA,
secretary, Department of Transportation and Communications, 17/F The Columbia Tower, Barangay Wack-Wack, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

Prison volunteer groups support Bishop Bacani

WE, lay prison volunteer groups serving the 16 jails and two national prisons within Metro Manila are one in expressing our unwavering support to Bishop Ted Bacani in this time of great trial and persecution.

We have had the privilege of working with him a number of times in the past, and during those instances, we really felt the warmth and gentleness of his person, as well as his compassion and generosity to the poor and the needy, especially those behind bars. We have also witnessed his courage and deep conviction when as a young bishop, he fought injustice and oppression during the dark days of the dictatorship. We were also there when he exchanged intelligent views with our country's statesmen during the Constitutional Commission of 1986. We appreciated your visits in almost all the jails boosting morale and showing genuine pastoral love and mercy when he saved the life of a death convict who was scheduled for execution.

It is rather unfortunate that some sectors have misinterpreted your warmth and affection to mean something else. We understand that there was not even a formal complaint filed against you and yet some sectors are already demanding that you leave your flock as Bishop of the diocese of Novaliches.

May he find consolation in the words of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, "We rejoice in our suffering, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance-character."

We also recall that during his installation rites, he said that he wanted to be remembered as a Bishop of God's mercy. We are confident that God will grant him not only Mercy but more importantly Justice. Yes, Your Excellency, God will make a way.

—TERESITA D. GOMEZ, 33 Eleuterio St., Cruzville Subd., Novaliches, Quezon City and GERARD V. BERNABE, 505 Sancho Panza St., Sampaloc, Manila and 20 other signatories

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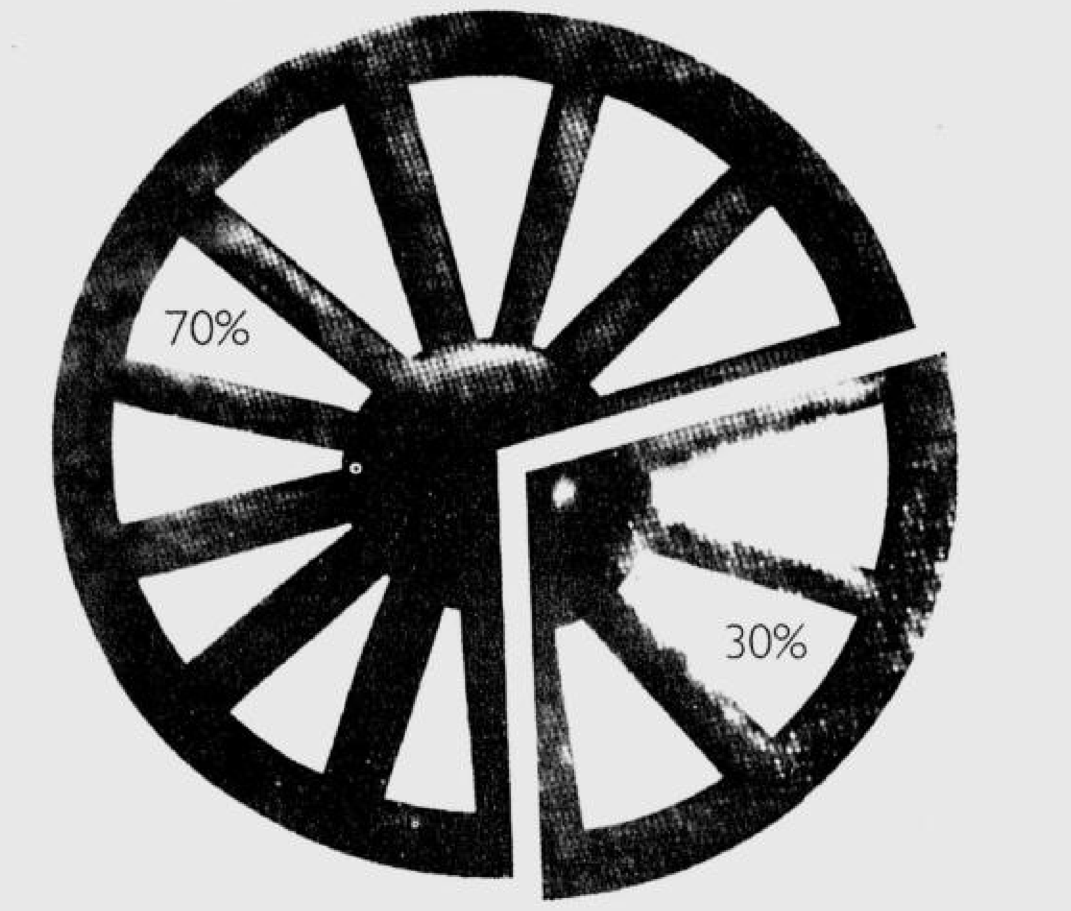
Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.



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Pinoy ka, imbitado ka! All exhibit areas and on-site activities, e.g. Wellness Check-ups, Smoke Emission Testing, etc. are open to the public as well as the Forums, Roundtable Discussions and Plenaries except the CEO Forum, Lunch and Plenary, and Cocktails where attendance is by invitation. For inquiries, call 892-9189, 892-9084.

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July 11, Friday

8:00 - 10:00 **PLENARY: STEP-UP: BUSINESS SECTOR-LED PARTNERSHIP IN URBAN POVERTY REDUCTION IN METRO-MANILA**
Session Chair: Juan B. Santos
Chairman, Nestlé (Philippines) and
PBSP Center for Corporate Citizenship

10:15 - 12:00 **PLENARY: CEO FORUM ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
- Presentation of Paper on Social Entrepreneurship by Myrna Cacho
- Case Presentation by La Frutera: Senen Bacani/Datu Ibrahim Paglas III
- CEO Reactors: Rex Drilon II, COO, Ortigas & Co.; Oscar Torralba, President, Town Holdings Corporation and Pacita Juan, Director, Figaro Foundation

12:00 - 1:30 **LUNCHEON and PLENARY**
Theme: Youth Entrepreneurship
Speaker: Eliseo Santiago
Country Chair, Shell Companies in the Philippines

1:30 - 3:00 **PLENARY: TEACHING COMMUNITY ON DOING BUSINESS WITH BUSINESS - "KA SOSYO KA!"**
- Business Working with an Intermediary
- Business Working with Cooperatives
- Outsourcing
- Business Counselor for SMEs (c/o MAP)

1:30 **NEWSPAPER DRIVE TURNOVER CEREMONY**
- Philippine Daily Inquirer

3:00 - 4:00 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

HOW TO BE A SUPPLIER
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- PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORPORATION • NESTLE
- BUENOMANO CRAFTS • UNIVERSAL ROBINA CORP.
- VITARICH CORPORATION • SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
- RFM • VILLAR

4:00 - 5:00 **PLENARY: BENCHMARKING CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP IN THE PHILIPPINES**
Speaker: Pedro Roxas, CEO & President, Central Azucarera Don Pedro

5:00 **CLOSING CEREMONIES**
Guest of Honor: Manuel V. Pangilinan, CEO & President, PLDT and Chairman, PBSP

5:30 **COCKTAILS AND NETWORKING**
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- Fun, Friendship And Learning At The Knowledge Camp: Daily 8:00-11:00 A.M.; 1:00-4:00 P.M.
- Wellness Booth: Free Blood Pressure Taking, Blood Typing, Cholesterol Testing, ECG, Osteoporosis Screening, Fitness Sessions; Foot Spa, Massage: 9:00A.M. To 4:00 P.M.
- Bloodletting
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Guec

Reports: UK troops executed by Iraqis

LONDON—Four of six British soldiers killed in a southern Iraqi town were executed after they surrendered following a fierce gun battle, British newspapers reported Thursday.

The British military policemen mounted a last stand Tuesday at a police station in Al-Majar Al-Kabir, around 200 km north of Iraq's second city of Basra, and were killed, possibly with their own weapons, after they refused to flee, papers said.

Most British newspapers, which carried the story of the deaths on their front pages, said the sequence of events was still unclear.

The Times reported the British troops were said to have ordered a group of Iraqi civilians with them whom they had been training as police officers to flee.

"They told us to save ourselves though they refused to run away. They were murdered in cold blood. There was no way they could escape. I'm so ashamed I left them," The Times quoted Salam Mohammed, one of the trainees, as saying.

Ali al-Ateya, an Iraqi radio journalist, claimed that he saw the Britons offering to surrender their weapons after two of their colleagues had already been shot dead. But ringleaders snatched the rifles and killed the soldiers.

"They shot the British in the head, several times. The executioners were standing right in front of the Britons," he told The Times.

The military police team had come to the town to discuss uniforms for their trainees. They wanted local people to recognize the new police officers, who had been patrolling in civilian clothes, the paper added.

Residents of Al-Majar Al-Kabir, which during the war on Iraq was handed over to coalition forces without a shot being fired, were said to be angry that troops had started carrying out house searches for illegal weapons using dogs, which are considered unclean in Islam.

Witnesses said that the Britons had killed four people in a fire fight and injured 17 before being killed themselves.

The right-wing Daily Express ran pictures of the dead soldiers on its front page, under the headline: "Executed."

"Our boys made their last stand against a terrifying, hate filled mob in this bloody den of carnage," it added.

"No mercy" was the front page headline of the Daily Mail tabloid, which said the "hero soldiers (were) murdered in cold blood by an Iraqi mob."

In Majar Al-Kabir, British officials are considering tightening security and sending more troops to Iraq after what they described as the unprovoked "murder" of the six soldiers in an attack that highlighte rising resentment among Shiite over the country's occupation.

British forces were hunting fo the Iraqi killers on Wednesday an on Thursday, mosque loudspeaker blared messages imploring towns people to hand over weapons d the dead British soldiers.

"If you have the weapons han them over to the Shiite town hal and your identity will not be revealed. If we don't get the weapon within 48 hours the British will enter the area," said a message fro one mosque. *AFP, AP*

Americans must brace for long stay in Iraq, senators say

WASHINGTON—Americans must brace for US military engagement in Iraq that will almost certainly drag on for years and cost billions more than expected, leading senators said Wednesday.

Two senior US senators at separate press briefings Wednesday called on the White House to quickly break the news to the US public that American troops will have to remain in Iraq for at least half a decade, maybe much longer, at the cost of untold billions of dollars.

"This idea that we will be in there just as long as we need to and not a day more—we've got to get over that rhetoric. It is rubbish. We're going to be there a long time," said Senate foreign relations chair Richard Lugar.

He continued: "At some point we—that is Congress, the president and people in the know—really have to level with the American people," said Lugar, who just returned from a several-days-long mission in the region.

Lugar was accompanied on the trip by Democratic Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware and Senator Chuck Hagel, a Republican from Nebraska.

Biden, the top Democrat on the Senate foreign relations committee, lashed out at the White House for what he said was poor preparation for the postwar period and continued US missteps in administering Iraq since the end of the war.

He urged the White House to prepare the US public for a prolonged commitment in Iraq until the country is self-governing, adding that officials in President George W. Bush's administration still appear not to have fully grasped the magnitude of the task ahead in rebuilding the country.

"There's a gigantic gap between expectations and reality in terms of what the administration, in my view, anticipated," Biden said.

Biden said that US officials were caught flat-footed by the absence in Iraq of a functioning bureaucracy, army and police force, as well as the extent of deposed Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's neglect of the country's power grid and other infrastructure.

"The result has been massive problems in terms of getting basic services back and restoring security."

He called Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's expectation to be able to draw down US forces in Iraq to about 30,000 troops by the end of the year "absolute fantasy." *AFP*

Syria demands explanation for US border raid

DAMASCUS—Syria says it is still awaiting an explanation from the United States a week after five of its border guards were detained in a US special forces raid on the frontier with Iraq.

The foreign ministry has yet to receive any response to a formal protest it lodged with US ambassador Theodore Kattouf on June 19, the official Sana news agency said late Wednesday.

The ministry demanded "an explanation from the US government... and the return of the wounded soldiers for treatment in Syria in order to avoid any misunderstanding that might lead to an escalation neither side wants," the Sana statement said.

"The ministry is still waiting."

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld acknowledged Tuesday that no wanted Iraqi officials were found in the June 19 raid by Task Force 20, a secret unit set up to hunt down senior members of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Other US officials said five Syrian border-guards were held in a subsequent clash, three of whom were wounded. They said the raid may even have taken place in Syrian territory.

But Rumsfeld defended the intelligence that prompted the attack against what he said was a suspicious convoy exiting Iraq and insisted Washington was in contact with Damascus over the incident. *AFP*

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Blair aide used Internet to make Iraq arms case

LONDON—Prime Minister Tony Blair's powerful communications chief acknowledged Wednesday that the British government made a mistake by including material from a graduate thesis posted on the Internet in a government dossier on Iraq's weapons capability.

But Alastair Campbell rejected accusations that he redrafted intelligence reports on Saddam Hussein's arsenal to exaggerate the threat posed by Iraqi weapons in another dossier as "complete and utter nonsense."

The two documents were a key part of the government's argument for military action in Iraq, and the controversy over them could fuel new calls for Blair to get troops out of the region, especially after six British military policemen were killed Tuesday near the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

Campbell told the Foreign Affairs Committee, which is focusing on the two dossiers as part of its probe on government claims about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, that the inclusion of material from the graduate thesis in a dossier published in February was "regrettable."

But he played down the importance of that document, repeatedly calling it a "briefing paper" that did not have the same gravitas as a dossier released in September 2002.

"The first dossier... was a serious, thorough piece of work setting out why it was so vital to tackle Saddam and WMD (weapons of mass destruction). The second paper was not," he said.

Campbell said the paper was distributed only to six Sunday newspaper journalists on a plane with Blair to Washington. Their reports were later picked up around the world.

The committee also grilled Campbell on reports that he had persuaded intelligence officials to highlight claims in the September dossier that Iraq could fire chemical or biological weapons within 45 minutes of Saddam giving an order to do so.

"The story that I put pressure on the intelligence agencies is untrue. The story that I 'sexed up' the dossier is untrue. The story that we somehow made more of the 45-minute command-and-control point than the intelligence agencies thought was suitable is untrue," Campbell said.

He demanded an apology from the British Broadcasting Corp. for originating the "lie," but the BBC later issued a statement standing by its information from a "senior and credible source" that members of the intelligence community were unhappy that the point was given undue prominence.

The failure of coalition forces to find weapons of mass destruction since the war in Iraq ended has put Blair on the defensive, though he has insisted that he believes they will be found.

Earlier Wednesday, Blair told the House of Commons that the February document was "entirely accurate," even though he was not aware that parts of it were taken from a student's thesis when he published it.

Blair came under pointed questioning from lawmakers, including members of his Labor Party, about how long British troops would remain in Iraq following the killing of six British soldiers in the south of the country.

Jon Owen Jones, a Labor lawmaker, told the prime minister that Britain "desperately requires an exit strategy" from Iraq.

Blair said the British forces in Iraq had already been reduced from 45,000 during the conflict to 15,500 now, two-thirds of them ground forces. "Exactly when those troops can come home I cannot be sure," he said. *AP*

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Bitter disputes dog US-EU summit

WASHINGTON—Deep divisions over genetically modified food, the International Criminal Court and the Middle East clouded the annual US-EU summit here Wednesday as neither side budged from positions that have dogged transatlantic ties for months.

Eager to overcome the deep rift cause by the Iraq conflict, US President George W. Bush and EU leaders stressed their mutual commitment to the global war on terrorism, organized crime, the general approach to Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, Afghanistan and the Balkans.

But even as they sought to put Iraq behind them, neither Bush nor Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis, whose country currently holds the rotating EU presidency, could escape the non-war related divisions.

Although the two sides penned a joint extradition treaty, they remained at odds over the International Criminal Court (ICC), which Washington vehemently opposes and Brussels strongly supports.

Although they agreed to begin talks later this year on a transatlantic "Open Skies" aviation accord, no progress was made in the lingering trade dispute over genetically modified foods, which are still subject a de facto EU ban that the United States is protesting to the World Trade Organization.

And, while both sides endorsed the so-called "roadmap" for Middle East, the two sides continued to differ in their stances toward the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which the United States wants Europe to outlaw completely as a terrorist organization.

At a joint news conference with Simitis, Bush ignored most of the pressing differences, highlighting only one when he called for EU action against Hamas.

"I urge the leaders in Europe and around the world to take swift, decisive action against terror groups such as Hamas, to cut off their funding and support, as the United States has done," he said.

The United States wants Europe to stop distinguishing between Hamas' political and military wings and adopt the US position that the group as a whole is a terrorist organization. *AFP*

Hamas to agree to 3-month ceasefire

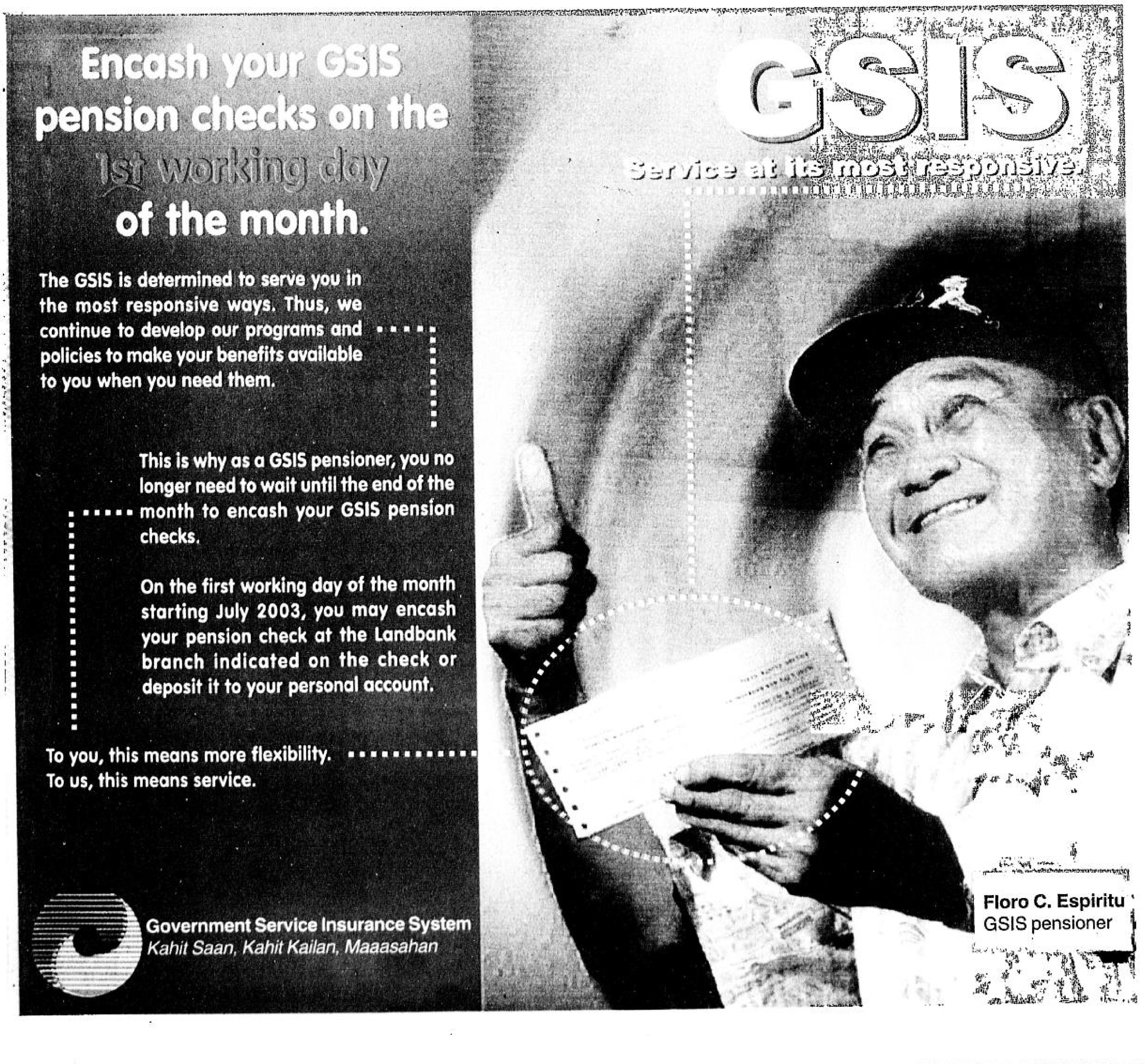
JERUSALEM—Palestinian negotiators said Thursday they have obtained a commitment from Islamic militants to halt attacks on Israelis for three months and that a formal truce would be announced before the weekend.

Palestinian Authority officials and Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip insisted the deal is not final, while Israel and the United States were skeptical about the value of such an arrangement, saying Palestinian security forces must quickly disarm the militias.

In violence Thursday, Palestinians fired several mortar shells and homemade rockets at a Jewish settlement in Gaza and an Israeli community bordering the strip, damaging a Jewish seminary. In the West Bank city of Hebron, Israeli troops razed the family house of a Hamas militant who allegedly recruited suicide bombers.

A truce might help end 33 months of violence, a necessary prelude to the US-backed "road map" plan aimed at establishing a Palestinian state by 2005. The plan requires the Palestinians to break up the armed groups, but Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas has ruled out using force, saying he fears it would lead to civil war.

The truce deal was negotiated by Marwan Barghouti, a Palestinian uprising leader jailed by Israel, and the heads of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups in Damascus. Barghouti, using envoys, acted on behalf of Palestinian leaders, the negotiators said. *AP*



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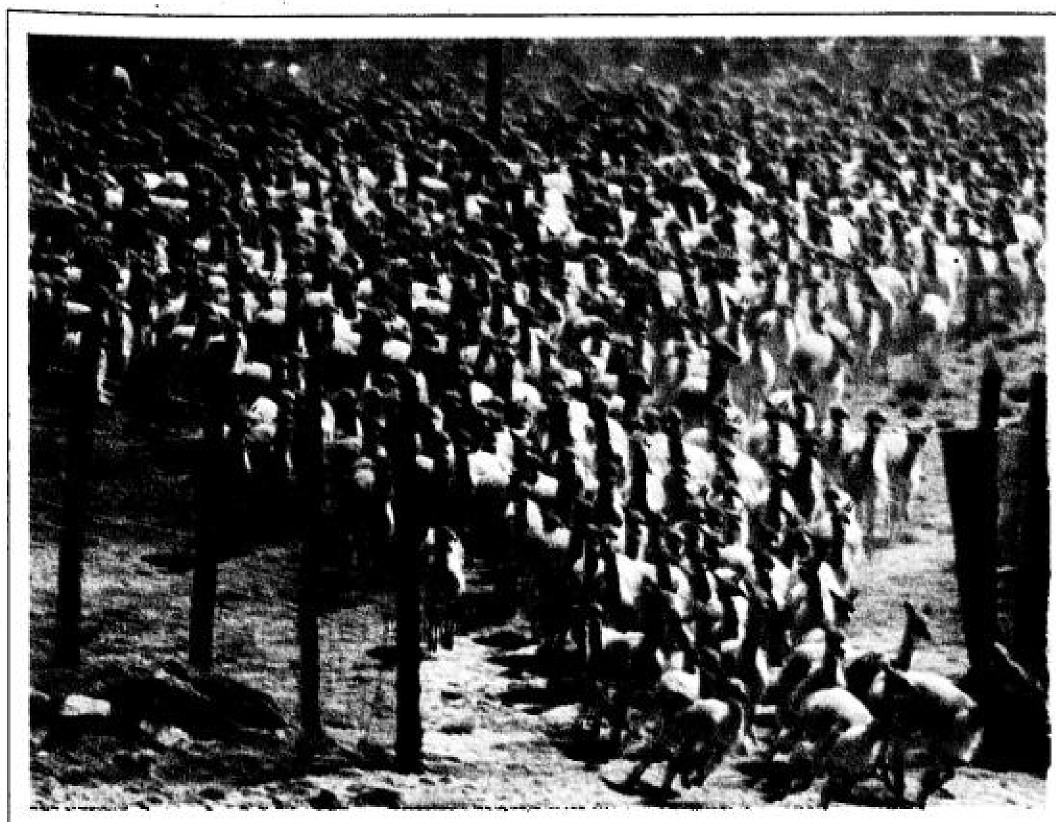

LLAMAS RELATIVES

Vicunas run in Pampa Galeras National Reserve in the Andean highlands of Ayacucho, June 24. Farmers round up the protected wild animals, a delicate relative of llamas and alpacas, to shear their highly prized wool. REUTERS

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Liberia rebels battle gov't forces near capital

MONROVIA—Rebels battled close to the heart of Liberia's capital on Thursday as fighting left scores dead and drew calls for US intervention in a ruined African country founded by freed American slaves.

Only one bridge stood between the attackers and a feared bloodbath in central Monrovia, where thousands of terrified people have scrambled for refuge and are hemmed in by the killing on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other.

The showdown between President Charles Taylor and rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy is the culmination of a three-year bush war, but only the latest grisly chapter in nearly 14 years of violence.

It has wrecked hopes of a negotiated end to the war less than a week after a ceasefire had raised them.

Letting loose rockets and mortars, the rebels advanced in two days through suburbs where hundreds were killed earlier this month. Defense Minister Daniel Chea said battle now raged on Bushrod Island—within small arms range of the center.

"They have moved into town to cause havoc and mayhem against civilians," Chea said. "All I can say is that they will pay the price for what they have done."

Among the dead were three Liberians killed when shells crashed into a US compound used as a storage area less than one kilometer from the American embassy.

The mission issued a statement harshly condemning the rebel attack on Monrovia, and urging rebels to abide by international accords. It said scores had died as a result of recent shelling.

But there was no sign Washington would respond to pressure to take a leading role in ending the anarchy in a country founded by freed American slaves as a haven of liberty in the 19th century.

Britain's United Nations ambassador, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, said members of the UN Security Council hoped the United States would intervene, possibly at the head of a multinational force to bolster any ceasefire.

"At this point the United States has no plans to deploy any peacekeeping forces but it continues to support West African efforts," said one US official, who asked not to be named.

The situation is complicated by the position of President Taylor, a US-educated former warlord who is no friend of the United States and has been indicted for war crimes in Sierra Leone by an international court.

Facing a desperate battle for survival and with no clear escape route, Taylor has vowed to fight on. The rebels have said they will not stop until they hold Monrovia. *Reuters*

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Pilot in mistake slays demands military trial

WASHINGTON—A US Air Force pilot who mistakenly bombed Canadian troops in Afghanistan, killing four, refused an offer of a lighter, non-judicial punishment on Wednesday and will now face a military trial, the Air Force said.

F-16 fighter pilot Maj. Harry Schmidt will be tried on previously dropped charges that could include manslaughter and dereliction of duty and could result in up to 64 years in prison if he is convicted.

The service had last week offered Schmidt, 37, the option of avoiding a court martial by undergoing an administrative hearing before a general.

But the pilot said he could not get a fair hearing before the general on the April 17, 2002, "friendly fire" accident near Kandahar in southern Afghanistan, where a flight of two US F-16s killed four and wounded eight members of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

It caused outrage in Canada and President George W. Bush publicly apologized.

"Maj. Harry Schmidt has demanded trial by court martial in lieu of accepting non-judicial punishment," the Air Force said in a statement from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

"Maj. Schmidt's trial date has not yet been established.

The Air Force Trial Judiciary's Central Circuit will assign a trial judge and a trial date in the near future," it said.

Schmidt dropped a 230-kg bomb on what he and a fellow pilot thought at the time were Taliban forces fighting US and other troops in Afghanistan.

Schmidt's attorney, Charles Gittins of Virginia, said in an interview that his client could not have gotten a fair non-judicial hearing and punishment from Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, who said last week he was dropping criminal charges against Schmidt and the other pilot involved in the incident.

"The general had made previous comments about Harry and made it clear that he could not get a fair hearing. Harry does think he has at least a chance for a fair trial," Gittins said.

"Based on Maj. Schmidt's decision, Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson has decided to refer the case to a general court martial," the Air Force said. Service officials said Carlson refused to recuse himself from the case.

Pilots Schmidt and Maj. William Umbach had been earlier charged with involuntary manslaughter, dereliction of duty and assault in the incident.

But last week, US 8th Air Force Commander Carlson said in a statement that Umbach would instead get a letter of reprimand and a recommendation that his request for retirement be granted.

Schmidt's case was to be reviewed by his commanders in a "nonjudicial" proceeding. *Reuters*

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Environmentalist mayor slain

By Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Gunmen killed a mayor of Zamboanga Sibugay, who was known for jailing those destroying the environment, including his friends, during an ambush early morning on Thursday.

Payao Mayor Moises Araham, 45, was leading a Bantay-Dagat patrol along the coastline of his town at around 5 a.m. when his group was attacked.

Supt. Raul Gomez, Zamboanga Sibugay police chief, told the INQUIRER that Araham's group was approaching two pump boats to check on the activities of their passengers when they were fired upon.

The local chief executive was fatally hit as his escorts fought back.

"The mayor's escorts were not able to sustain the firefight when he was hit. They immediately withdrew, hoping to save him," Gomez said.

He said Araham died while he was being brought to the hospital.

Southern Command chief Lt. General Roy Kyamko said two of the attackers had been killed. Their identities were not immediately available as of presstime.

"There was a 45-minute firefight and the mayor was hit and wounded, including a Cafgu (Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit), but we managed to get two of the (suspects), a banca and an M-14 rifle," Kyamko said.

He said some of the attackers fled toward Alicia town, while another group went to Talusan Island, also in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Alberto Alcoriza Jr., a former seminarian and also an environmentalist, said Araham had been fighting for nature even before he became a public official.

"He did not put distinction between those engaged in illegal fishing activities. He did not spare even his friends," Alcoriza said.

Col. Pedro Cesar Ramboanga, commander of the Army's 102nd Infantry Brigade, agreed.

"He was very strict when it comes to the implementation of municipal fishing laws," Ramboanga said.

Alcoriza said he suspected that Araham was killed by people "whose toes he had stepped on because of his anti-illegal fishing campaign."

Pangasinan mayors seek gun permits

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CALASIAO, Pangasinan—Fearing for their lives after Tayug Mayor Guerrero Zaragoza was gunned down on Sunday, Pangasinan mayors have asked officials of the Philippine National Police to issue them permits to carry a handgun and a rifle to protect them.

During a meeting here on Wednesday, the mayors condemned Zaragoza's killing, which the police said was the work of the New People's Army.

Binalonan Mayor Ramon Guico, president of the Pangasinan Mayors League and of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, said Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., PNP chief, had approved the request of the mayors to carry guns.

"As for the long firearms, it will depend on the threats received by the mayors," Guico said, noting that some mayors tend to abuse the use of firearms.

He said there could have been lapses in the way Zaragoza's security men handled the mayor's security when he was gunned down on Sunday as he was leaving a cockpit arena. Wilfredo Hidalgo, 50, the arena's caretaker, was also killed in the attack.

"They (security aides) should have cleared the way first before Zaragoza went out of the cockpit. But he was confident that nothing would happen to him," Guico said.

Senior Supt. Mario Sandiego, provincial police director, said he endorsed the mayors' request to PNP officials in Camp Crame and assured the local executives that he would work for the approval of their permits.

Sandiego said the police were also investigating reports that the suspects in the shooting of the Tayug town hall on Monday night were supporters of Zaragoza.

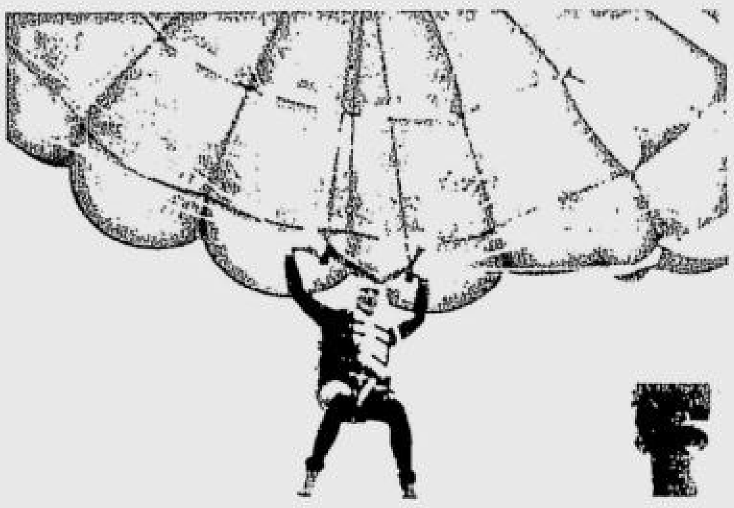
CA to put up 3 divisions in Cebu City

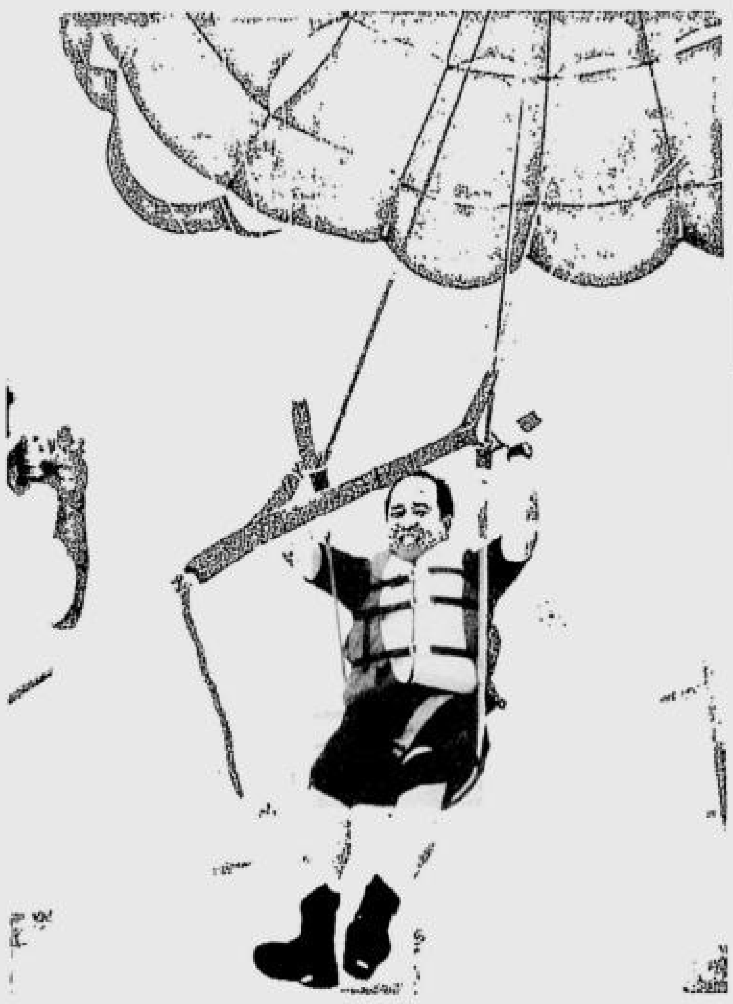
CEBU CITY—The Court of Appeals has decided to put three divisions in Cebu City and start will operate next month.

Associate Justice Portia Alino-Hermachuelos, in a meeting with regional trial court judges here yesterday, revealed that the Supreme Court would be renting a 1,500-square-meter building on Escario Street to temporarily house CA Divisions 18, 19 and 20, according to Cebu RTC Executive Judge Pampio Abarintos.

The provincial government had earlier allowed the Supreme Court to build a CA Building on a 2,011-sqm portion of its property inside the compound of the Department of Agriculture on M. Velez Street. The high tribunal, however, preferred that the property be donated to it.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. led ground-breaking ceremonies on the future site of the CA Building on April 9, 2002 at the DA Compound. *Suzzane Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau*





US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone (right photo) and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon (left photo) enjoy para-sailing at the Subic Freeport. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Gordon taps US envoy to pitch for RP tourism

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Guess who Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon tapped to help promote Philippine tourism, especially Subic Bay here? United States Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, no less.

Complete with diving gear, the US envoy plunged 90 feet into the bay to catch a view of the sunken USS New York.

Ricciardone was swept by a spectacular scene, according to Subic Shack diving instructor Butch Horario, who accompanied the ambassador and his daughter Chiara. The dive took almost an hour.

At the depths for 62 years, the 112-meter long USS New York had become, in Ricciardone's words, "platforms for life" because corals and fish teemed there.

In 1941, the US Navy sank the vessel, built in Philadelphia in 1891, to prevent it from going into the Japanese Navy's hands and to also block the shipping route, according to Horario.

"There's something ghostly and mysterious (about the wreck)," Ricciardone told reporters after the dive.

On the US Navy map, at least 26 ships had sunk at Subic Bay. Horario said seven remained intact and spared from looting. Dozens more, he said, lay at the bottom of the South China Sea, a known trade route during precolonial Philippines.

Ricciardone and Gordon also tried parasailing.

Taking turns being harnessed on a parachute pulled by a sailboat, the two spent a good hour on the bay.

"Great visit" was how Ricciardone called his first visit to Subic as a tourist. He was here almost two years ago, visiting American companies.

At the time of his visit, some 50 American and Filipino servicemen went deep sea diving as part of the exercise Balance Piston, which began on Monday.

"I came because I enjoyed tourism in this country. This is a fun place," he said. "This is for the Philippines."

Of the country's 7,108 islands, he said he had been to only three dozens islands so far.

"I've got a long way to go. We should promote the Philippines as whole," he said.

Subic is featured in the Department of Tourism's "Wealth of Wrecks" destinations.

Ricciardone cited the tourism and business potentials for the development of Subic and Clark in Pampanga, which, he said, had "tremendous facilities" and "wonderful infrastructures."

"It's just a matter of releasing the talents of the people, and (of government) just getting out of the way of people," he said. "There are things that the government should do and has to but mostly, good things come from free people."

"(Leaders should) get out of the way of people and let them work. Let them use their imagination," he said

Gordon said he was happy about Ricciardone's pitch for Philippine tourism. He said, however, that he was "disappointed" with the construction boom that was ongoing on this freeport's foreshore.

He said these buildings were denying sea turtles the spaces to lay their eggs.

Gordon, former chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said he would call attention to this form of environmental degradation.

"I continue to be concerned about Subic and promoting it even as a tourism secretary," he said.

Army troops raid 2 NPA 'safehouses'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Army soldiers on Wednesday raided two suspected safehouses of the New People's Army in Nueva Ecija but failed to catch the suspects in the murder of Mayor Guerrero Zaragoza of Tayug, Pangasinan.

Col. Jovenal Narcise, commander of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade, said the first suspect, identified only as "Ka Lando," was not in his supposed safehouse in Lupao town.

But Narcise, in a report sent here, said soldiers recovered "incriminating" anti-government documents. He did not disclose the contents of the documents.

A bulletproof vest, a camouflage field jacket and military camouflage uniform were also found in the house.

The second suspect, identified as "Ka Butz," had fled before another team of soldiers and policemen conducted the raid in Cuyapo town, Narcise said.

Government troops recovered a shotgun with four bullets, a .357 cal. revolver with five bullets, and two rifle grenades from the house.

Narcise did not say if these matched the guns and bullets used in the killing of Zaragoza on Sunday.

He said government troops were looking for the suspects who fled toward the Umingan (Pangasinan)-Nueva Ecija boundary and in remote villages in the borders of Cuyapo and Lupao.

According to Narcise, Lupao and Rizal town in Nueva Ecija are "places noted as the safe haven of NPA liquidation squads operating in eastern Pangasinan and Nueva Ecija."

Lately, he said, several members of the liquidation squads either surrendered or were arrested in these areas. *Tonette Orejas with a report from Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Iloilo governor relieves provincial hospital chief

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Gov. Niel Tupas relieved the medical chief of the Iloilo Provincial Hospital pending investigation of a report that hospital wastes were disposed on an open dump in its six-hectare compound.

Dr. Noel Icamina was ordered on June 24 to report to the provincial capitol pending further investigation and possible filing of administrative charges against him.

Tupas appointed Dr. Noel Roy Gigare of the Janiuay District Hospital to take over Icamina's post. Gigare was replaced by Dr. Prim Parcon.

The INQUIRER tried to get the side of Icamina after the governor's press conference on Tuesday, but he declined to comment.

The fact-finding team, led by Dr. Carmen Bayate, head of the provincial health office, noted that the hospital wastes, such as syringes and needles, sanitary napkins, cotton, plastic, paper and sponges, were not segregated but lay exposed along with ordinary trash in the dump.

Icamina told the team that biological wastes were buried in the dumping site to about four feet but scavenging animals up unearthed and drag them to nearby houses.

He said the dump used to be enclosed and its fence badly needed repair.

Bayate, together with Dr. Judy Ann Dumayas and Josephine Marmolejo, wrote in their report that the pathological wastes, were "thrown into the hospital's open dump and burned together with other dry wastes."

Icamina told them that he did not send the pathological wastes in the municipal dump because they might infect people scavenging there.

Pathological wastes are those that are potentially infectious.

Anti-drug watchdogs guard shores

LUCENA CITY—The provincial police chief yesterday said various drug-abuse watchdogs would be strengthened to guard against the resurgence of drug smuggling activities in the coastal areas.

Senior Supt. Federico Terte, Quezon police provincial director, said they had long been tapping the barangay drug abuse councils, especially along the coastal villages off the Tayabas Bay in the first and second districts.

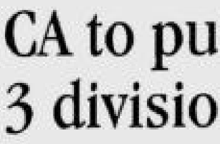
Terte also noted extra efforts to make use of the same bodies in the monitoring of drug smuggling activities in the seas off northern Quezon.

In October 2001, lawmen confiscated at least 498 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu in northern Quezon. The drugs were in ready-to-sell one-kilo packs worth about P1 billion.

A year before that, 365 kilos of shabu were seized during a foiled smuggling attempt in Barangay Bignay II, Sariaya along the coast of Tayabas Bay.

On Tuesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the province's long coastline had been the favorite drop-off points of syndicates for their illegal drugs. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 410 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

SHABU SEIZED

Couple nabbed in General Santos buy-bust

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on Thursday arrested a Cotabato City-based alleged big-time drug trafficker and his wife during a buy-bust operation here.

Supt. Efren Alcuizar, PDEA chief for Central Mindanao, said his men also seized P500,000 worth of high-grade shabu from Kaido Mangco, 50, and his wife Nenita, 37.

Alcuizar said the couple was about to deliver 20 sachets of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu to Tiongson Street in Barangay Lagao when they were collared.

He said their arrest came after PDEA agents snooped on them for three days.

Kaido, a former employee of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Cotabato City, allegedly belonged to the notorious Modin group, a drug syndicate operating in the region.

The intensified anti-drug campaign has netted at least fourteen policemen in Southern Mindanao.

Senior Supt. Catalino Cuy, chief of the Davao Oriental police, said four of those dismissed from service because of drug use were under him.

"We expect more heads to roll as we will be conducting a regular surprise drug tests this year. We will rid our ranks of drug addicts, pushers and protectors of illegal drugs trade," Cuy told the INQUIRER.

He said the dismissal of the 14 policemen would serve as a warning to others who were still using illegal drugs or protecting the illegal drugs trade.

Davao Oriental Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil also ordered drug tests on employees of the provincial government and vowed to dismiss those who will be found using illegal drugs.

In Davao City, at least 14 killings have been recorded this week, 11 of which were attributed to the so-called Davao Death Squad (DDS).

The latest execution of suspected drug pushers occurred on Monday while Chief Supt. Isidro Lapeña, regional police chief, was holding a press conference where he was asked about the police's action on the spate of killings in the city.

Lapeña said he has directed Senior Supt. Conrado Laza, city police chief, to solve the killings even as he claimed that they had never affected the local peace and order.

Laza, in a later interview, said that even without the directive he had already told his men to investigate the summary executions.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said some people who wanted to end the drug menace were behind the series of killings.

"There are people who want to solve the problem (illegal drugs) in a quickest possible time," he said.

Duterte has repeatedly denied any hand in the existence of the DDS. *Aquiles Zonio, Anthony Allada, Dennis Jay Santos and Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Search on for ancient Cagayano

By Estanislao Caldez
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The search is on for the skeletal remains of the ancient Cagayano, considering the abundant indirect pieces of evidence available, such as artifacts of his tools, implements and even his food that could prove his existence millions of years ago.

This was revealed by Prof. Wilfredo Ronquillo, an archeologist from the National Museum, in a lecture commemorating the 420th anniversary of the establishment of the civil government of Cagayan.

"We now have pieces of evidence that the Cagayan man, like the mammals, existed early [sic] as shown by the artifacts of his tools, implements, food and livelihood," he said.

Ronquillo said direct evidence indicated that the ancient Cagayano had lived in one of the hundreds of caves in Peñablanca town in Cagayan during the Pleistocene Age (Ice Age), 15 to 20 million years ago.

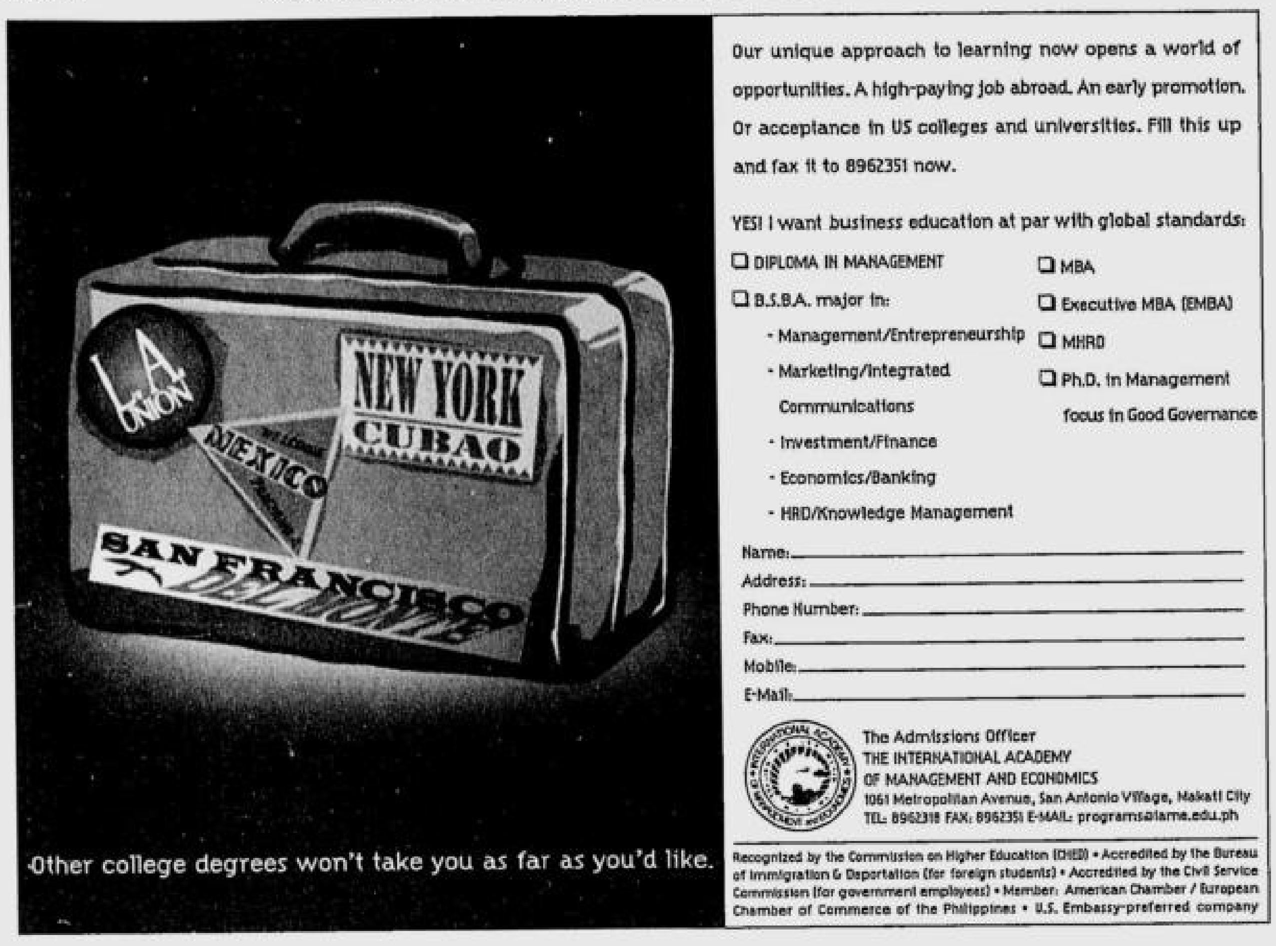
He said the presence of fossils of elephants and rhinoceros indicated the existence of Homo sapiens in Cagayan.

Ronquillo urged officials to come out with laws that would stop treasure hunters from destroying and stealing artifacts from the caves.

He also urged them to encourage maritime and underwater archeology because, he said, "in the seas [surrounding] the province are possible sunken ships that contain rich evidence of our early history and relations with other countries."

He suggested that Cagayan put up a center that would protect cultural artifacts from treasure hunters.

In the proposed center, all materials and artifacts unearthed would be displayed in order for Cagayanos, especially the youth, to be aware of their rich cultural heritage.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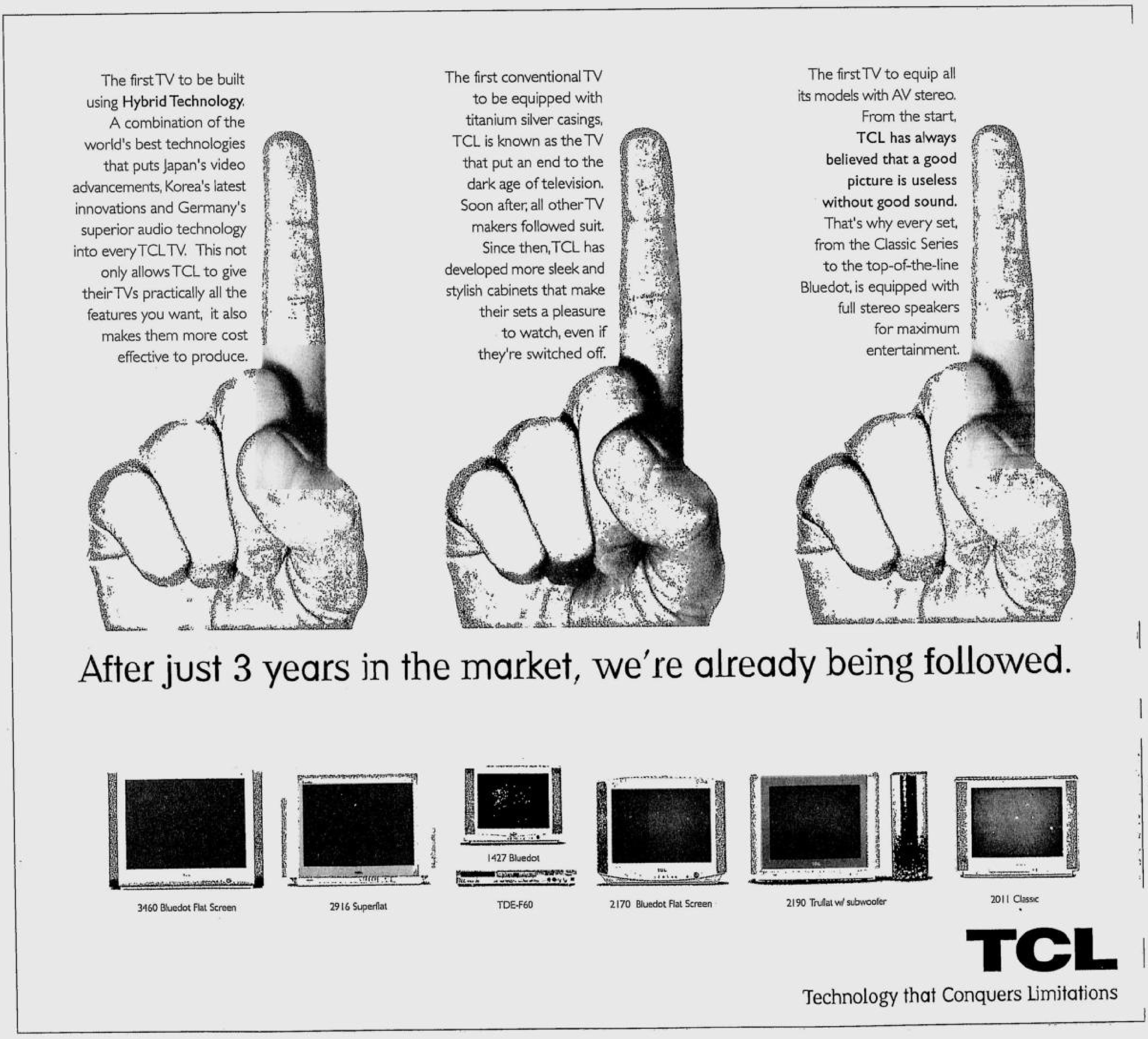
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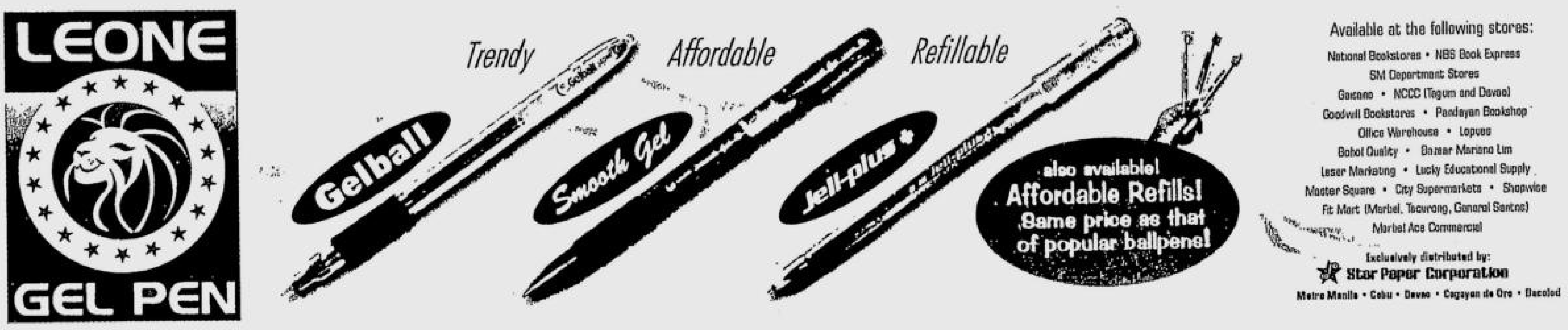
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DAR chief says dwindling number of farmers a blessing for economy

BAGUIO CITY—Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan on Thursday said the country's dwindling farming population was actually a blessing for the local economy.

Counter-pointing the alarms raised last month by the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Pagdanganan said the government should instead harness a small farming resource to cope with dwindling farmlands.

"In fact, we should discourage the farmers' sons from becoming farmers. They can be lawyers, doctors, engineers, and they can contribute to developing the farms by investing in them. They will then allow the small farming population to make these investments productive, so everyone is involved and we don't tax our lands," he said.

During the 50th RBAP convention here in May, Magsaysay said the number of Filipino farmers have been depleted because many have reached the retirement age of 65.

He asked the bankers to provide the beneficiaries of retired farmers enough incentives to study agriculture and pursue new farming technologies.

Pagdanganan said developing new farmers might be the wrong direction for the government to take. He said new technologies were available to replace the work of most farmers.

Instead of developing new farmers, he said, the government should encourage new job opportunities for the farmers' children. "That's the type of development this country needs," he said.

New skills could be nurtured to help create ready markets for the farms and to make the country's agricultural industry more productive, he said.

Like Japan's economy, this system of shared investments will generate the farms enough subsidy to survive and expand without requiring new informal resources like intermediary capitalists, he said.

Japan has thrived with only 3 percent of its population involved in farming, Pagdanganan claimed.

"Even the United States, which is a global power, relies only on 1 percent of its farming population. But under this scheme everyone benefits because while not everyone are farmers, almost every other person is a stakeholder of these farms," he said.

Pagdanganan, a former Bulacan governor and cooperative movement advocate, said the Department of Agrarian Reform has reached this stage of its agenda.

He said the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program had been set up to resolve land tenure, provide financial access to farmers and provide these farms sustained markets.

He said the DAR had been helping install a new agrarian regimen composed of a small farming population, a high degree of capital and a relatively updated farm technology. "This way, we can help resolve the farm industry's problems by 2007," he said.

In the Cordillera, the department has given 60,000 hectares of farms to local farmers, and is processing the Certificates of Land Ownership Awards for the remaining 3,000 hectares of farmland that are classified here as alienable and disposable. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ifugao rice terraces losing half of farmers

By EV Espiritu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WOMEN farmers lead the harvest in the rice terraces of Kiangan, Ifugao during the "ngilin," the ninth ritual in the 12-rite rice cycle in the province. EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

KIANGAN, Ifugao—The latest population survey of Ifugao showed that about 50 percent of its residents have abandoned the centuries-old rice terraces for lowland farms, reducing the skills required to restore these World Heritage sites.

James Tayaban, a former Ifugao board member, said the surveys showed that about 35 to 40 percent of Ifugaos had since migrated to Quirino, while another 30 percent chose to settle in Nueva Vizcaya.

He said this has taxed the province's 161,623 residents (May 2003 figures), which grew slightly from 149,598 in 1995 and 147,030 in 1990.

But the province's population still grew in 2000 by 1.67 percent compared to the 2.8-percent growth rate in 1990, indicating that the absence of skilled labor now endangers Ifugao's growing population of dependents, who must rely on the rice terraces to survive.

Unfortunately, Tayaban said, none of these terraced farms are titled to the families, forcing them to migrate instead to lands they can buy and maintain.

Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. had been campaigning to restore the province's rice culture to revive the relevance of terraces-grown rice to its people.

That way, he told the INQUIRER earlier, the whole community could focus all their resources at bringing the centuries-old terraces to life.

Baguilat is nursing back to health the terraces of Barangay Julongan in his hometown Kiangan, as a test case for the rest of the Cordillera terraces, which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) had inscribed in the World Heritage list.

But Tayaban, Baguilat's consultant on special projects, said they must first draw back their people from lowland farms where many had settled to grow citrus trees instead. He said over 30 percent of the terraces have been deserted.

According to him, farmers have come to terms with the fact that their agricultural ecology prohibits them from planting more than once in a year.

He said the current soil condition does not encourage farmers to plant two types of cropping in a year.

The Central Cordillera Agricultural Program said "the rice terraces' land-use system (in high elevations) no longer satisfies the rice needs of the populace because . . . almost 80 percent of rice growers cannot produce enough rice to meet household consumption requirements."

It said: "On the average, the rice produced by the farm operating households in the high-altitude areas is sufficient to meet their requirements for only 5.1 months."

The book "Highland Rice Production in the Philippine Cordillera," pegs production in Ifugao of indigenous rice at 29,949 metric tons for 14,079 hectares of land.

Farmers in Kiangan have undergone this week their ritual harvesting festival called ngilin. This is the ninth ritual of a 12-rite cycle of the province's rice planting and harvest rituals.

Harvesting rice the Ifugao way

By Ben Moses Ebreo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

KIANGAN, Ifugao—Bundles of harvested rice were left to be dried on the narrow roadsides while others were carried by farmers who came from the rice terraces of Barangay Julongan on Tuesday as the once verdant terraces were transformed into golden yellow.

With patience, farmer Agapita Napudo, 67, along with other Ifugao women, used their *gamlang* (knife) to cut rice in its straw or *udong*.

"By harvesting manually, we cut the rice straws and bind them before bringing them to the granary," she said. The *mumbaki* (native priests) performed a ritual as they gathered at the granary with Ifugao men. Two native pigs were butchered as offering to Kabunian (Ifugao's god).

The *mumbaki* narrated the myth of the *tinawon* (once a year) rice, starting with the hunting trip of brothers Balituk and Kabigat that took them to Kabunian, up to the building of the first rice fields in *pugaw* (earth world).

Last week, Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. received P30 million from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) to restore Ifugao's rice terraces.

The money will be spent for irrigation and other rice terraces programs, such as agricultural management, reforestation and watershed management, preservation, promotion of culture, development of potential tourism sites, infrastructure and livelihood development.

The quality of this rice is much better than any other varieties, according to Manuel Dulawan, 67, the provincial government's consultant on Ifugao culture.

Dulawan said the demonstration farm was managed without the application of modernized farm equipment and pesticides.

"We have learned from our ancestors that using inorganic fertilizers destroys the condition of the soil. We only allow organic fertilizers here," he said.

The 10th ritual in the Ifugao agricultural calendar, the "Ani," seeks to restore the old farming practices of the Ifugao, Dulawan said.

He said the rice rite also aimed to restore and propagate water organisms and aquatic animals in the rice paddies.

"The use of insecticides and pesticides has killed aquatic animals in rice paddies. Now, we are also seeding these fields with fish, eels, shells and snails to retrieve the balance of the ecosystem," he said.

From April to September, the Ifugao abstain from eating fish and other aquatic animals to propagate these.

"This practice is similar to the Muslims' Ramadan, but it is being done in connection with the care of the rice paddies and rites," Dulawan said.

According to him, many Ifugao farmers have moved to other provinces because of lack of economic opportunities as a result of the deteriorating condition of rice terraces.

"(Based on my) research, their migration is anchored on their search for greener pastures. Many of them have improved their economic condition outside the province," he said.

"Basically, these rice fields have been neglected due to lack of water supply. Once the irrigation system is repaired, these fields will probably (be revived) because these are already part of their culture," Dulawan added.

The program, he said, is also an attempt to prevent the terraces' neglect.

"Perhaps those who are already outside the province can help by merely hiring their own laborers or tenants to take care of their farms, especially those who have neglected their ricefields," he said.

Anti-smoking charges pushed in Davao City

DAVAO CITY—City officials said they were proud of the anti-smoking ordinance, which was made basis for the filing of charges against a large number of smokers in public, including government officials.

The Comprehensive Anti-Smoking Ordinance of Davao City, backed by Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, was met with opposition when it was initially implemented because of the stiff penalties it prescribed for violators, but the city government was unwavering.

More than 300 violators have since been arrested and the city government announced that it was bent on pursuing charges against them even with the passage of the national anti-smoking law.

Under the national anti-smoking law, the government would regulate the packaging, use, sale, distribution and advertisements of tobacco products in the country.

The new law effectively repealed all laws and ordinances inconsistent with it.

But Councilor Bonifacio Militar, who pushed hard for the passage of the ordinance, said the local law could still be implemented with amendments so that its provisions would be consistent with those of the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003, which President Macapagal-Arroyo recently signed into law. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Zambo folk release sea turtles

By Lullie A. Micabalo
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MANUKAN, Zamboanga del Norte—Slowly, the creatures crawled to the sea as hundreds of people, mostly fishermen of Barangay Don Jose Aguirre here, cheered.

The four Hawksbill turtles released on Tuesday had been under the care of two villagers for eight months.

Upon reaching the waters, the turtles plunged and disappeared in the waves.

But to the delight of those who joined the send-off, two of the creatures resurfaced, looked back and vigorously moved their fore flippers for a minute, as if waving goodbye.

The scene drew mixed reactions from the audience, especially fisherman Junior Micullar, who took care of the turtles.

Micullar, who was with his two children, suddenly found himself in tears.

"Honestly," he said, "I intended to keep (the turtles). I've learned to love them and I think they also learned to love us because we really took care of them," he later told the INQUIRER.

He said he decided to release the creatures after his landlord, Teodoro Urquiaga, urged him to do so.

Urquiaga, one of Zamboanga del Norte's staunch environmentalists also played a key role in the release of several turtles about two months ago.

Recalling how he came to take care of the turtles, Micullar said that on Sept. 13, he saw a Hawksbill turtle on the shore. He said he silently observed the creature as she dug a pear-shaped chamber where she would later lay eggs.

Micullar said the mother turtle then covered the nest with sand.

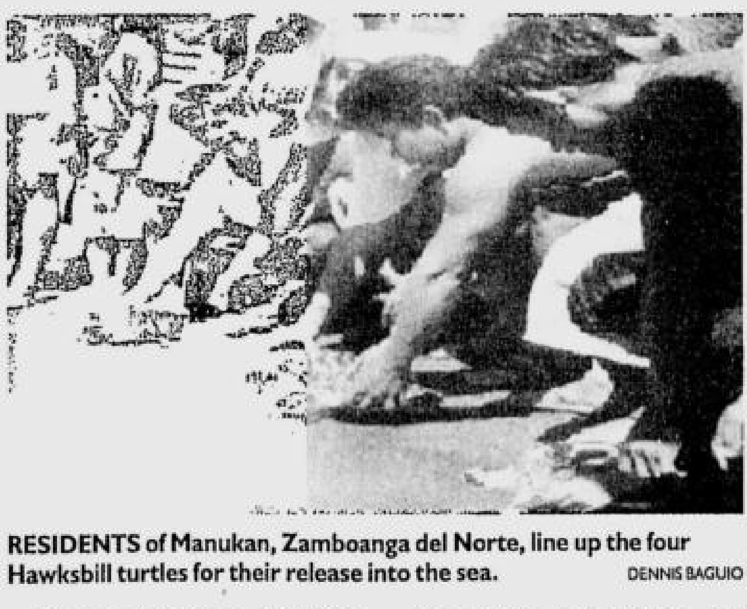
"It covered the nest in such a way that no one will think there was something in it," he said in the vernacular.

The following morning, upon Urquiaga's advise, Micullar said he transferred at least 111 eggs to his backyard.

Two months later, 38 turtles were hatched.

Micullar said Urquiaga brought some of the hatchlings to Francisco Lolyloy, chief of the Fisheries Division of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, while he and Bonifacio Dimasuhid took four each.

Those brought to the fisheries office died a few days after, but Micullar and Dimasuhid's turtles grew fast.



RESIDENTS of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte, line up the four Hawksbill turtles for their release into the sea. DENNIS BAGUIO

The two fishermen said they fed the turtles small fish and shellfish.

"Every morning and afternoon, I changed the sea water in the big basin where I placed the hatchlings," Micullar said.

The turtles rapidly grew, but their continued captivity would jeopardize their lives.

And so on Tuesday, the creatures, which were now the size of big plates, were released into the sea.

Most notorious gang in Calabarzon area busted

DASMARIÑAS, Cavite—The suspected leader of the most dreaded criminal syndicate in Southern Tagalog and seven of his men were arrested Tuesday midnight after a brief firefight.

Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Cavite police chief, said Benito Simbahan, 49, of Tanauan, Batangas and alleged leader of the "Simbahan Gang," had long been wanted by authorities for drug trafficking, kidnapping and other criminal activities in the region.

A police report said the group was also identified as the biggest drug syndicate in the Calabarzon area.

It said Simbahan carried a P500,000 reward for his head and had just been listed as most wanted person in Calabarzon.

Following a tip by concerned citizens, Rosales said policemen, led by Supt. Rhodel Sermonia, spotted Simbahan aboard a Honda Accord car as he entered Winward Hill Subdivision in Barangay Burol at around 11 p.m. Tuesday.

Simbahan, who was with trusted aide Romerico Geronimo, and two others noticed that they were being followed and sped off until they were cornered in front of the alleged gang leader's house, the report said.

Simbahan and Geronimo immediately went inside the house while the two others fled while firing their guns at the lawmen.

Policemen, meanwhile, rounded up the other five suspects in separate houses a few blocks away.

Simbahan and Geronimo initially used the family members inside the house as human shields, but they soon yielded after Rosales successfully convinced them to surrender peacefully.

Rosales identified the other arrested suspects as Albert Abisial, 21, of Dagupan City; Fernando Detoito, 21, of Carmona, Cavite; Rommel Panganiban, 19, of Trece Martires City; Robert Gatdula, 22, of Amadeo, Cavite; and Alex Elicano, 20, of Butuan City. *Delfin Mallari Jr. with report from Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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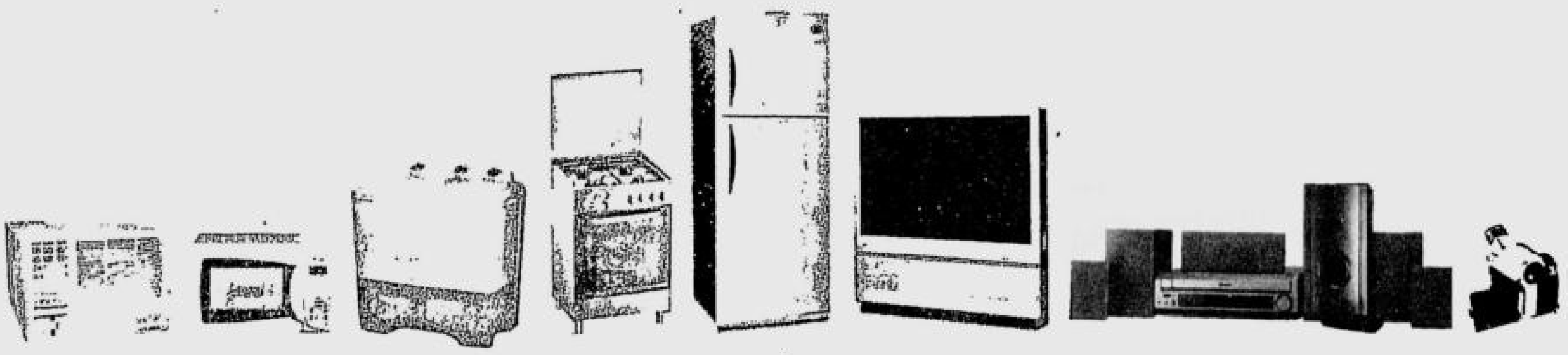

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Test for drugbusters

From page A1

before one could work in government," Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. told reporters. "If they get appointed to the PDEA, they would be considered new employees."

Jaylo and Margallo are expected to be appointed directors of PDEA's "special operations groups," on the recommendation of Sen. Robert Barbers, once their boss in the Manila Police.

Completing their roster of the "4 Aces" is ex-Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who was recently named presidential adviser on illegal drugs.

Avenido could not say how Jaylo and Margallo would fit into the PDEA system. Lim's appointment similarly baffled Avenido.

"Since his appointment is not yet formal," he said, "I still don't know what post or office he would occupy."

In the meantime, the PDEA chief said he and his men were closely coordinating with Lim and Barbers in the war on illegal drugs.

But a ranking PDEA official warned that the agency may have no room for Jaylo and Margallo.

The agency has only a "special enforcement service," not special operations groups, as prescribed by the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, the official explained.

Should President Macapagal-Arroyo appoint Jaylo and Margallo, Avenido said they would have to work strictly under the rules of the PDEA.

"They would just be like any other member of the PDEA," he said. "Policies which are applicable to all would also be applicable to them as well."

A policy that Jaylo and Margallo would find interesting is the one governing complaints against PDEA agents.

The agency has an Internal Affairs Service that investigates complaints and even raw information about allegedly erring officers, according to Avenido.

Complaints may range from officers allegedly planting evidence against drug suspects to those purportedly involved in extortion activities.

"At the PDEA, we immediately look into reports so we could make corrective actions as soon as possible," Avenido said.

When they were on the police force, Jaylo, Margallo, Lim and Barbers were widely criticized for allegedly resorting to "short cuts" in their pursuit of drug traffickers.

Look for signs of torture, rights group urges media

By Volt Contreras and Philip C. Tubeza

FEARING a surge in torture cases with the government's renewed anti-drugs campaign, human rights advocates yesterday urged the media to "look for signs of torture" whenever law enforcers present crime suspects at press conferences.

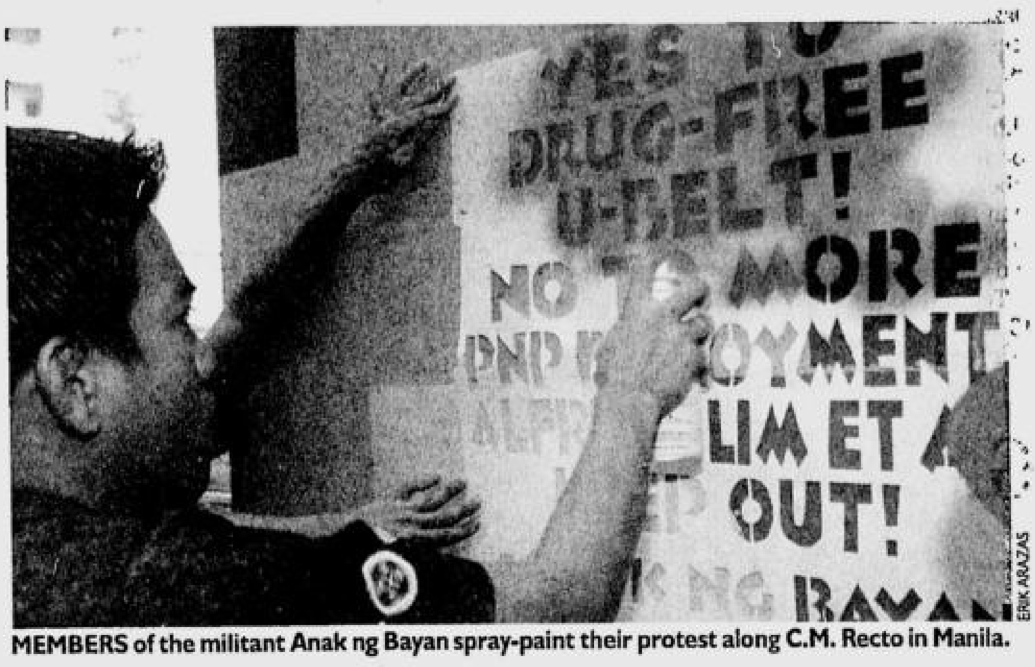
A legal assistance group headed by Sedfrey Ordoñez, former Commission on Human Rights chair, also vowed to fight the so-called "Four Aces" group led by former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim should it try to revive his controversial "spray-paint" drive against suspected drug pushers

At a press conference in Quezon City, lawyer Linda Jimeno of the Center for Restorative Justice in Asia (CRJA) said the media could further help the human rights cause by focusing on the state of crime suspects when paraded before press cameras.

"Parading them before the press even when they are still suspects is already a form of mental and psychological torture," Jimeno said. "Damage has been done to them and their families even if they are eventually acquitted."

Because torture, if expertly done, seldom leaves physical marks on the victim's skin, other tell-tale signs may be detected from the suspect's "manner of speaking."

"*Tulala ba*? (Does he appear to be in shock?)" Jimeno said. "Would he always answer "yes" every time as if he's following a script? Was he very careful with his words and not being spontaneous?"



ERIK ARAZAS

MEMBERS of the militant Anak ng Bayan spray-paint their protest along C.M. Recto in Manila.

But what if the suspect is not even allowed to speak when presented to the press by his police or military handlers, the INQUIRER asked Jimeno.

She thus challenged the media to "go the extra mile" by visiting the suspect in his detention cell and try to get an interview.

"Torture is the most rampant human rights violation but is still the least reported," said Jimeno, CRJA board member and also the lone Filipino member of the Council of International Criminal Bar.

At the same forum, CHR officer-in-charge Dominador Calamba II joined the CRJA in warning against the revival of Lim's spray-paint campaign, noting that the Supreme Court had declared it unconstitutional.

"We will file cases against them (Lim and company) if they insist on it," he said. "Even a convicted drug pusher still has a right against such an unusual form of punishment."

The CHR just wants to remind "some people who are considered to have special talents for stemming the tide of the drug menace" not to resort to unlawful methods, Calamba said.

The CHR and CRJP held the forum in observance of International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

Asked to give an update on on torture cases in the country, Calamba said reliable figures may be hard to produce due to the continuing absence of a Philippine law by which torture could be defined and prosecuted.

The closest legal basis applicable to torture are Revised Penal Code provisions dealing with the crime of physical injury, he said.

DOJ cool to Lim plan

Even the Department of Justice is cool to Lim's plan to revive his spray-painting campaign against drug users.

Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez said Lim's plan should be carefully reviewed first because of allegations that it would lead to human rights violations.

"There are groups that claim that this will result in human rights violations; that people will be punished even before they are convicted," she added.

Gutierrez said a Metro Manila Development Authority ordinance could not overturn a decision of the Court of Appeals. The CA struck down in June 2000 the Manila City ordinance that Lim used as a basis for his spray-painting campaign.

Lim appealed to the Supreme Court but the SC dismissed his appeal because it was filed late. Lim is now saying that he might ask the MMDA to issue a new ordinance.

But once the CA ruling becomes final, it becomes a "binding decision" that a mere ordinance cannot go against, according to Gutierrez.

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, head of the lawyers group Mabini, said the government should not resort to gimmickry in its campaign against drugs, especially if the gimmicks violate fundamental human rights.

Mabini was one of the groups which questioned the constitutionality of the Manila ordinance.

"And as the CA said (in its ruling): It is the undying glory of our democratic form of government implanted here by our forefathers and national heroes that no man living under it is above the law and no law punishes before it condemns, nor pronounces verdict before trial," Saguisag said.

Quarantine

With spray-painting facing legal obstacles, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency is favoring the proposal to place drug-infested barangays under quarantine.

"For us, it's a good idea as long as there's no legal obstacle to it," PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. said of the quarantine proposal.

The idea was floated by Bayani Fernando, MMDA chair, who claimed success over the drug menace when he implemented the measure in Marikina several years ago.

The measure required barangay officials to strictly monitor the movements of residents in a drug-infected area.

Should the Dangerous Drugs Board, the government's policy-making body on the drug problem, approve the proposal, 4,680 barangays nationwide would be placed under quarantine.

This is the number of barangays seriously affected by illegal drugs, according to Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr., the DDB chair. *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra*

Gov't urged . . .

From page A1

These pushers kill our children," he said.

Diño also proposed that politicians zero in on the ill effects of drugs and how drugs deform the human face.

He then urged politicians, who resort to broadcast advertisements, to include the campaign against illegal drugs in their ads.

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17 killed in NPA attack

From page A1

Romero, commander of the 801st Infantry Brigade, told the INQUIRER. The brigade, based at Camp Daza in Inabanga, Samar, oversees the operations of the 52nd IB.

Chief Supt. Dionisio Colona, Philippine National Police director in Eastern Visayas, said the rebels surprised the troopers manning the patrol base. "They took advantage of the heavy rain and darkness," he said.

The detachment, manned by 13 soldiers and 21 militiamen, is so isolated that Army officials had a hard time establishing radio contact with the camp after the raid.

The Oras town proper is about four to five hours' drive from the main battalion headquarters in Laua-an town. From the Oras town proper, the Army detachment may be reached in three to five hours by foot through rugged mountain trails. The camp, however, may be reached in only an hour by pump boat from the town proper.

It was the biggest NPA raid since the late 1980s when the rebels killed 52 anti-communist Manobo vigilantes inside a church in Digos, Davao del Sur. The NPA has a presence in most of the country's provinces.

Lt. Col. Ruby Bongabong, Cencom spokesperson, said the attack was a show of force by the NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which is considered a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union.

On Sunday, about 150 NPA rebels raided the town of Quinapondan in the southern part of Eastern Samar, ransacking policemen's houses. Their attack on the police station, however, was repulsed by two policemen, including the police chief who was wounded.

Romero said he believed that the attacks on Quinapondan and Oras were part of an NPA offensive in the province. According to the military, there are three NPA guerrilla fronts in Eastern Samar.

PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. ordered the Eastern Samar police to help the military in its pursuit operation against the rebels who raided the patrol base in Cagpile.

After a command conference in Cebu City, Colona told reporters that the NPA rebels have infiltrated practically all the towns in Eastern Visayas.

Colona said he has alerted the police chiefs in all the towns to prepare for possible rebel attacks.

The NPA, which claims to have about 13,500 fighters, has been battling for a Marxist state for over 30 years. Its attacks and raids usually target military positions and camps, as well as business establishments that refuse to pay "revolutionary taxes." The military estimates the NPA has 10,000 guerrillas.

The government suspended peace talks with the communist rebels in 2001 following the assassination of two congressmen.

The Norwegian government, which brokered the last round of peace talks in Oslo, is trying to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table. But the rebels are demanding the removal of the terrorist tag, but the United States has ruled this out.

Speaker Jose de Venecia is expected to join representatives of the Philippine government in the Netherlands on Saturday for exploratory talks with top CPP leaders.

De Venecia said he was confident he could bring the communist rebels back to the negotiating table. *With reports from Connie Fernandez and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; TJ Burgonio and Carlito Pablo in Manila; AFP; and AP*

GMA: Bomb cache sets back peace

From page A1

ARMY officers inspect ammunition and packs of gunpowder taken from a captured Moro rebel camp in Lanao del Norte. Photo taken at Camp Bilal on June 18, 2003.

AFP PHOTO

The military seized 450 kilos (990 pounds) of C-4 plastic explosives on Saturday in Kabuntalan town.

Ms Macapagal said the cache was larger than the entire military's C-4 inventory. Military officials said it was enough to blow up a 10-story building, or to make hundreds of smaller bombs.

But Presidential Adviser on Strategic Concerns Renato de Villa said he was optimistic a lasting peace pact would be signed within 90 days if both camps make the same commitment to reach an agreement soon.

In a Malacañang briefing, De Villa said he told the President the 90-day timeframe was "realizable." Ms Macapagal reacted by directing concerned Cabinet members to fast-track the peace process, he said.

But the President said the MILF hierarchy should explain—in line with MILF chair Salamat Hashim's renunciation of terrorism,—why it had C-4 explosives and other types of ordnance in its arsenal.

"I am strongly urging a complete disclosure of information regarding the cache of explosives, especially its sources, identity of its owners, the intended targets and involvement if any of any transnational terrorists in the smuggling and hoarding of this deadly material," she said.

"The response of the MILF in ferreting out the truth will largely determine our reciprocal attitude and actions," she said at the press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, reading from a prepared statement.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya and Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga presented to the President the recovered explosives, bomb-making materials and ammunition at the AFP grandstand at around 10 a.m.

The items, including improvised explosive devices, several sacks of black gunpowder, sacks of rocket-propelled grenade propellants, RPG launchers, boxes of blasting caps, 450 kilos of high explosives, among others, were laid out on two long tables.

The President stressed that a mere denial by the MILF would no longer suffice, because the stockpile was too big.

"Denials of knowledge, or the absurd claim that these were planted by our troops, are not acceptable. I think you can see how big it is. It's not one 'bayong' (native bag) that you can plant," she said.

"Somebody is responsible for procuring and hoarding these destructive materials in quantities that are even larger than the entire C-4 inventory of the Armed Forces."

"Whether the peace process moves forward or lags behind is largely in the hands of the MILF," she also said, without elaborating.

According to reports, the explosives show the MILF "still is trying to pursue terrorist activities" and "is not helping the peace process."

Informal talks

Reyes also denied reports that the government and the MILF had already hammered out an agreement in Kuala Lumpur, during exploratory talks.

"All of the statements coming from the MILF that there is already an agreement are not true. It's not true; there are no agreements yet," he told reporters.

Reyes emphasized that the President had not authorized anyone to sign any document, "other than the final peace agreement."

A RECENT undated handout photo shows **MILF Chairman Hashim** holding an **M-16** rifle while speaking on a microphone to **Moro rebels.**

AFP PHOTO

Abaya said the reported agreement, specifically its provision seeking the withdrawal of military forces from MILF-controlled areas, was unacceptable.

"Nobody can dictate (to) the Armed Forces how we can deploy (our) forces. We have not, to my recollection, recognized any MILF camp or MILF-identified areas," he told reporters.

Reyes also bristled at accusations that the military was not keen on resuming peace talks with the secessionist group.

"We are not trying to sabotage the peace process; we are trying to preserve it. What do you want us to do? Not do anything about caches like this? You want the production of caches like this to continue?" he asked.

"When we don't touch people doing this kind of activities, you'll take it against us. There's no logic there. You want us to renege and fulfill our mandate to run after terrorists, and then you will say we are not supporting the peace process."

Kabalu's claims

De Villa also refuted Kabalu's claims that an agreement had been signed between the government and the MILF in their meeting in Kuala Lumpur early this month and that the peace negotiations would start on July 11.

"I categorically state that there has been no formal agreement made or drafted in Kuala Lumpur. What transpired was an informal, exploratory exchange between representatives of the government and the MILF that could be used as inputs to the formal talks," De Villa said.

But late yesterday, Kabalu said that contrary to earlier reports, the government and the MILF had not signed a formal agreement to resume talks in Malaysia but had merely "affirmed" documents from previous negotiations.

The Malaysian foreign minister said Kuala Lumpur had not yet decided whether to send a ceasefire observer team to Mindanao, as requested by the Philippine government.

"I will be responding to the Philippines' request once I get the mandate from the (Malaysian) government," Syed Hamid Albar said. He declined to reveal when his government would make an announcement.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said Malaysian authorities were open to the idea "but they need a final clearance from higher authorities."

He also said the United States would play a supporting role.

Ople said a US-supported nongovernment organization, the Institute for Peace, would be "the focal point" of US participation by providing "financial and diplomatic support" to the peace process. *With reports from AFP, AP, Reuters*

What is C-4?

COMPOSITION 4, or C-4, is a high explosive designed for military use and is not available in the open market. The US military is the primary manufacturer of C-4, although Iran and Austria are also said to be producing other forms of C-4.

The US developed C-4 for use in the Vietnam War.

The presence of C-4 in a country's military inventory, like the use of M-16s, is a possible indication of American influence. Those countries in the sphere of influence of the former Soviet Union use Semtex explosives and AK-47s.

The formula for C-4, a variety of plastic explosive, is not a secret. The basic idea of plastic explosives, also called plastic bonded explosives (PBX), is to combine explosive chemicals with a plastic binder materials. The binder's most important job is to coat explosive material for it to become less sensitive to shock and heat, making it relatively safe to handle. The binder also makes the explosive material highly malleable, so it can be molded into different shapes to change the direction of the explosion.

C-4 resembles white, uncooked pastry or bread dough and can be kneaded and molded into any shape in total safety.

Lighting a C-4 block with a match will just make it burn slowly like a piece of wood. Even shooting the explosive with a rifle is safe and won't trigger the reaction. Only a detonator, or blasting cap, can do the job properly.

When the chemical reaction begins, the C-4 decomposes to release a variety of gases (notably nitrogen and carbon oxides). The gases initially expand at about 26,400 feet per second, applying a huge amount of force to everything in the surrounding area. At this expansion rate, it is impossible to outrun the explosion—something commonly done in Hollywood action movies.

PDI Research

PCGG questions Danding's television ads

From page A1

is considered a cost-efficient marketing tool. It is only appropriate for Mr. Cojuangco, whose name is synonymous to (sic) the success of SMC and subsidiaries, to endorse the product and to highlight a milestone in the company's history. The move is also a business decision that resulted in considerable savings from (not) hiring external talents to endorse the brand," the media statement said.

Five directors

The SMC regular board meeting was held yesterday but as of press time, Carranza had yet to confer with the five government directors: Hector Hofileña, Leo Alvez, Menardo Jimenez, Pacifico Fajardo and Juan Santos.

Coconut farmers and the government are claiming a combined total of 47 percent of sequestered shares of SMC.

The heads of three groups of coconut farmers wrote to the PCGG last month and this month calling for the government directors to investigate whether or not corporate funds were used for Cojuangco's ads.

"It is not a matter of whether we are objecting to his candidacy or not but whether corporate funds are being used for his candidacy," Carranza explained.

He added that Cojuangco had made political statements saying he would run if the conditions were right and that the television ads have appeared prominently during primetime.

"The farmers are understandably concerned on the use of the funds for political purposes," Carranza said.

PCGG Commissioner Vyva Aguirre took a more hardline stance. "It's very clear in the SMC by-laws that corporate funds should not be used for political and partisan activity."

Carranza said the agency, tasked to recover ill-gotten wealth amassed during the Marcos era, also furnished the letter from the coconut farmers to the two other government directors sitting on the SMC board—Social Security System president Corazon de la Paz and Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia. The two represent 11 percent of SMC shares.

"We can't really instruct them (De la Cruz and Garcia) to do anything but we have furnished the letters to the two," Carranza said.

Coconut farmers

In a letter to PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac dated May 20, Pedrito Lancanan, chair of Kopras, a coalition of coconut farmers organizations and individuals in Samar, asked the PCGG "to ascertain if the laws on the safeguarding of the coco levy money in the San Miguel Corp. have been violated by the issuance of the said advertisement. We also ask your office if the internal rules of the corporation have also been violated by the same."

Joey Faustino, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement, said Cojuangco "has yet found another way of utilizing the publicly held company's resources to bolster his political and economic ends—this despite the presence of a corporate rule that disallows utilization of the company's funds for election purposes."

Pascual Cabingatan, chair of the Coco-Agri-Aqua Farmers and Development Coalition, in a letter to Yorac dated June 20, said sequestered assets should not be used to further the plans of any presidential candidate.

"These include all present and future advertisements that feature Cojuangco. Since Cojuangco has already declared his possible candidacy for the 2004 elections, SMC corporate funds should not be utilized to promote him directly and indirectly."

The three groups represent coconut farmers from Samar, Quezon and Davao Oriental.

The PPI said Cojuangco was engaging in "bad corporate governance" by personally figuring in commercials announcing the corporate name-change for Ginebra San Miguel—just as his political supporters in Congress are pushing his candidacy.

"Mr. Cojuangco is featured in recent advertisements endorsing an SMC product," PPI Executive Director Omi Royandoyan said in a statement.

"This, however, is not a simple product endorsement. The timing is quite dubious given that his intention of running for president is already public knowledge," he added. "Clearly, the SMC is being used by Cojuangco as a vehicle to begin his campaign." *With a report from Volt Contreras*

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

SUERTRES 6 9 9

SIX DIGIT (In exact order)
4 8 2 1 2 7

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
14 18 21 24 28 37

Wayward text message leads to boy's rescue

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MISSENT text message spoiled the party for these alleged kidnappers.

Susan Floralde and her group could have fled with the P91,000 ransom had her cohorts not mistakenly sent a text message to her sister Shirley, the mother of the 6-year-old boy they had allegedly kidnapped in Manila last Saturday.

The blunder enabled police to rescue victim Alexander John Adrian Joven and recover the ransom in Quezon City Wednesday morning.

Floralde allegedly set up the abduction with Michael dela Peña, Sandy Pecson, Armi Cristy Joven and Criselda Sabares.

Sabares is the half-sister of the boy's mother. The female Joven is the boy's cousin.

At Camp Crame yesterday, Floralde apologized profusely to her sister Shirley.

Floralde later admitted that she had masterminded the abduction, thinking that the boy's Korean father had rich friends who could raise her group's P500,000 ransom demand.

THE RESCUED boy points to his abductors, from left, Susan Floralde, sister of the boy's mother; Michael de la Peña, Armi Cristy Joven, Criselda Sabares and Sandy Pecson. JOAN BONDOC

MM mayors take over traffic duty

BF to draft unified code

By Leila B. Salaverria, Edson Tandoc Jr. and Philip Tubeza

METRO Manila Mayors, acting as a council, yesterday decided to take over traffic management in their localities and to issue their own traffic violation receipts or TVRs.

The decision of the Metro Manila Council (MMC) relegated the Metro Manila Development Authority to being a mere coordinating body tasked to "harmonize" the traffic codes of the various local government units.

The move came even as the Department of Justice issued a legal opinion reiterating the MMDA's lead role in managing traffic, in the metropolis and in implementing a single-ticketing system for Metro Manila.

In the opinion signed by Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, the DOJ said the MMDA's mandate to set the policies concerning traffic in Metro Manila was clear.

"By express mandate of the MMDA Charter, the power to 'install and administer a single ticketing system, fix, impose and collect fines and penalties for all kinds of violations of traffic rules and regulations . . . and confiscate and suspend or revoke licenses in the enforcement of such traffic laws and regulations' belong to the MMDA," the opinion read.

It added, "the same law is equally clear and categorical that their (LGUs) traffic enforcers may only be deputized by the (MMDA) for this purpose."

Various rules

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said the 17 cities and towns of Metro Manila would draw up their respective traffic rules and ordinances which the MMDA would "harmonize" into a uniform traffic code.

Fernando was given three weeks to come up with the draft of the traffic code, which will cover everything from rules to fines.

Asked if the mayors were also taking responsibility and possible blame for traffic problems, he said, "Responsibility and authority go hand in hand."

Fernando said the LGUs would have their own TVRs, but that he would suggest that these come from only one source and that a uniform set of fines be followed. He added that one LGU's ticket should be recognized in another, "otherwise there will be a big problem for everybody."

With this system, he added, the situation would be "basically the same thing" as that with the single ticketing system, where only one regulation is followed.

But now, with the MMC's decision, the LGUs would be deputizing MMDA enforcers, contrary to the present practice.

The LGUs would collect the fines from traffic violators and just give a certain percentage to the MMDA.

Clearinghouse

But Fernando noted the need for a "clearinghouse" where the TVRs of all the LGUs would pass through so that the motorists' performance could be monitored.

With the mayors' decision, Fernando said the MMDA's role in traffic management had been reduced to "developmental" work, like training traffic enforcers hired by the LGUs.

But he stressed that traffic management on major thoroughfares like Edsa would have to be under a single command, preferably the MMDA.

Meanwhile, future traffic schemes like the MMDA's no-left turn policy would now only be implemented on the strength of a local government ordinance, he added.

Still, the MMDA chair said the move could be good. "With more responsibility given to the LGUs, I suppose more effort would be exerted for effective enforcement," he said.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said the mayors' decision should be looked upon "positively."

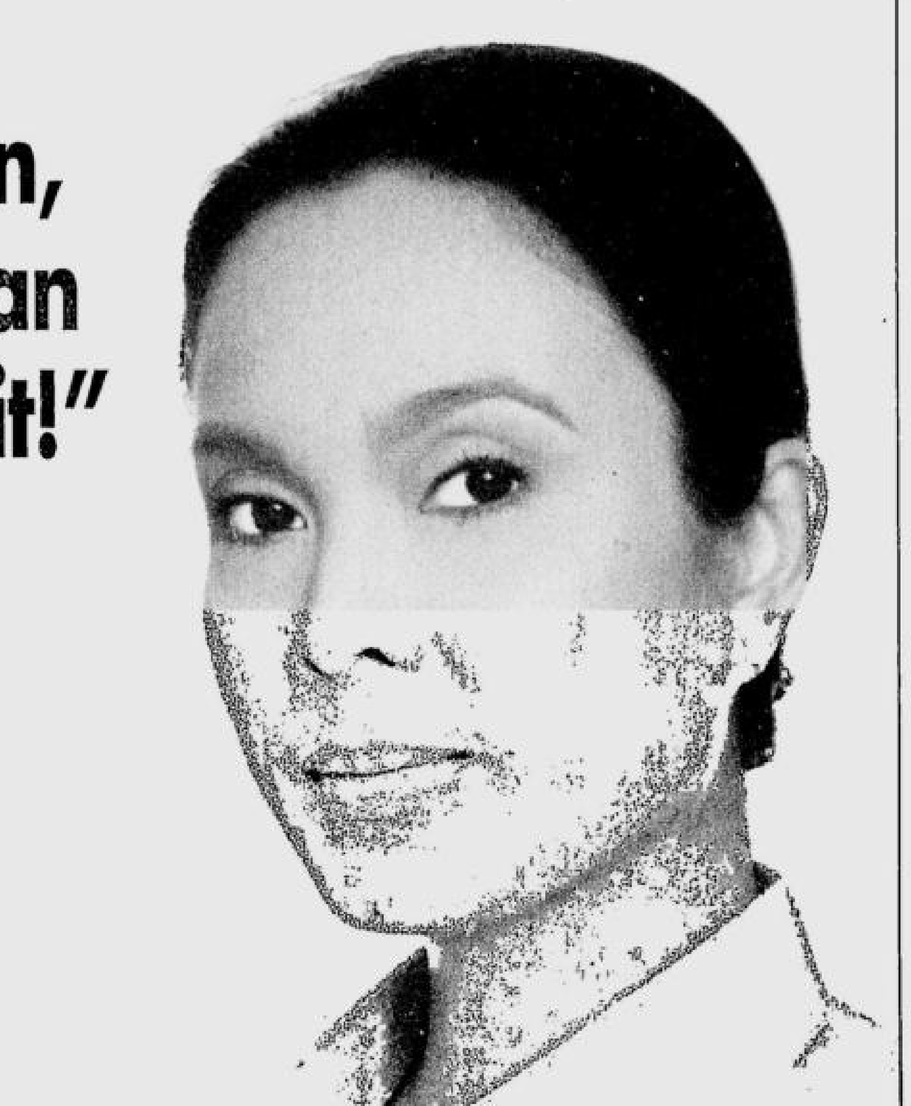
"All local units working together, supporting the MMDA, handling traffic management on major roads and sidestreets would be good for the over-all traffic situation," he said.

Speaking on the conduct and the result of the MMC meeting with Fernando, Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi told the INQUIRER, "We (the mayors) are satisfied."

"The meeting went well. Everyone was happy," Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga said.

Fernando and the mayors also agreed collection of revenues from traffic violation fines would now fall on the local government units, Fresnedi added.

In a previous interview, Pasay City Mayor Pewee Trinidad said one of the reasons for the mayors' insistence to take over was the revenue generated from traffic violation fines.



"Sa dami ng problema ng bayan, hindi natin kailangan maabala pa ng sakit!"

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Sen. Loren Legarda

NGAYON, HIGIT KAILANMAN,
BAWAL MAGKASAKIT

Court: Religious leaders can't endorse poll candidates

By Margaux Ortiz

RELIGIOUS leaders who endorse political candidates for election are violating constitutional provisions on the separation of the Church and State.

This was how Manila Judge Concepcion Alarcon-Vergara ruled on the petition of the lawyers' group Social Justice Society.

The group had asked the court's opinion on religious leaders who endorse candidates for elective office, some of whom are said to urge or even require members of their flock to vote for a specific candidate.

Named respondents were religious leaders Brother Mike Velarde of El Shaddai, Archbishop of Manila Jaime Cardinal Sin, Iglesia ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño Manalo, Jesus is Lord's Eddie Villanueva and Brother Eli Soriano of Dating Daan.

SJS head Samson Alcantara told reporters that he was happy about the judge's decision.

"Our countrymen should enjoy the right of suffrage without the intervention of their religious leaders," Alcantara said.

If religious leaders were proven to be campaigning for or against any candidate in an election contest, they could be violating Republic Act No. 7890, according to the judge. The provision states that any administrator of any religious organization who influences or threatens to punish any of his subordinates or members to vote for or against any candidate could be guilty of coercion of subordinates.

"They (leaders) ought to stop if they are campaigning for a particular candidate because that is a violation of the Constitution," Judge Vergara told the Inquirer in an interview yesterday.

She emphasized that RA 7890 provides that if the coercion was committed in violation of the people's right to vote, the leaders will be penalized with six years and one day to twelve years imprisonment.

"The decision is not necessarily in favor of SJS, but of the entire Filipino people, because it concerns the right of suffrage of each citizen of the country that ought to be protected by the judiciary as interpreter of the law," the judge said.

But she emphasized that she has no power to stop religious leaders from influencing their flock because her decision was only an interpretation and clarification of constitutional provisions.

She said that Congress has to enact laws that would give teeth to the constitutional provision for the sake of implementing the law.

"The Constitution is but a general principle on the subject, but it does not lay down specific rules," she explained.

Manila 'vice' gets drug test

By Tina Santos, Margaux Ortiz and Edson Tandoc Jr.

IN A SHOW of support for the nationwide anti-drug campaign, Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna yesterday presented himself as the first city official to undergo drug testing.

He said that he was hoping to set a good example to city residents, adding that 100 of his employees have volunteered to undergo drug testing as well.

Lacuna, who also heads the Manila Youth Council Against Drug Abuse, said that he has asked the government to set aside P20 million for the city campaign against drug abuse.

In Navotas, Mayor Toby Tiangco has ordered the suspension of three the Navotas policemen for alleged extortion in a drug-related case.

Tiangco said that for the drug program to succeed, the police must first cleanse its ranks of rogue elements.

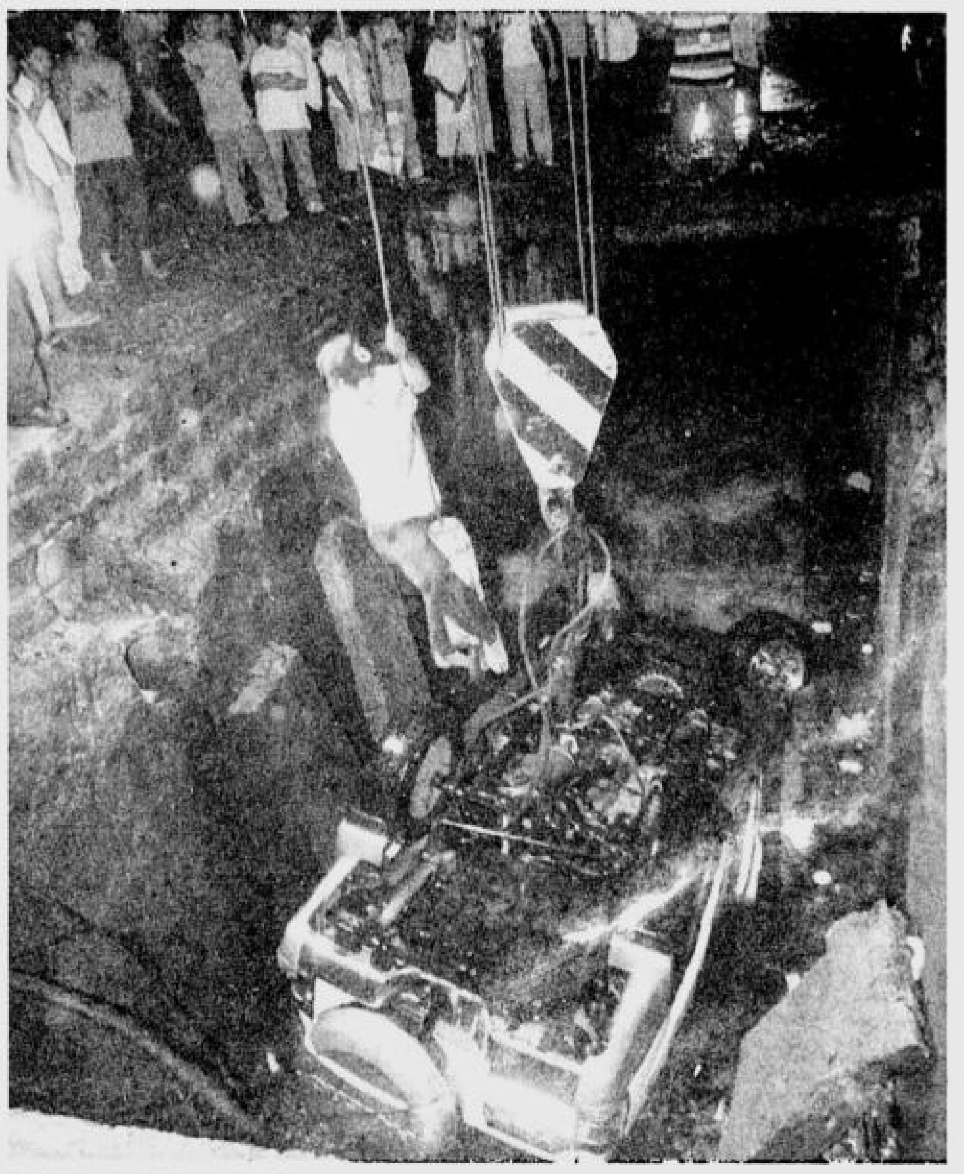
"The good cops should catch the bad ones," Tiangco said. "(Lawmen should strictly follow) arrest procedures so no cloud of doubt would be cast on the operation."

Navotas police chief Supt. Billy Beltran identified the suspended lawmen as PO1 Roy Magsino, PO1 Roan Geneta and their superior, SPO1 Jose Baksal.

In Pasay City, a suspected drug pusher and three users were arrested in a buy-bust operation Thursday evening.

When police arrested Jose de Leon, 47, for selling drugs, they also caught Angelito Fernandez, 38, Angelito Ubas, 22, and Jhomel Gonzales, 24, in the act of taking shabu, said PO3 Conrado Mapili of the Pasay Drug Enforcement Unit.

The roundup was the latest reported in the Southern Police District, where 66 suspects had been arrested last week.



PAJERO TAKES A DIP JOAN BONDOC
An emergency worker lowers himself down to an overturned Mitsubishi Pajero, which fell in a creek in the vicinity of Quezon Avenue on Thursday. According to a witness, an old man was trying to park the Pajero beside the Ginza massage parlor and did not notice that he was backing up straight into the creek. An unidentified man rescued the victim.

Bring back death penalty, urges solon

By Tarra Quismundo and Leila Salaverria

VALENZUELA City Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo Jr. yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to bring back the death penalty in support of the government's fight against drugs.

"The President must lift the moratorium on the death penalty as far as drug traffickers are concerned," Gunigundo said, adding that intensified efforts against drug offenders should be accompanied by the imposition of stricter penalties on those convicted.

But Northern Police District Chief Marcelino Franco said that even before the moratorium, the death penalty has not proved itself as a surefire deterrent for drug offenders because the penalty has not been imposed strictly on those convicted of the crime.

Valenzuela yesterday commemorated the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at the city's convention center.

Speaking before 500 students, Dangerous Drugs Board member Edgar Galvante stressed the importance of the family in preventing the youth from taking drugs.

"The demand for drugs can be killed by waging our own little battles in our households," said Galvante.

If Gunigundo were in favor of bringing back the drug penalty for drug pushers, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando was pitching to the Metro Manila Council the idea of placing under quarantine drug hotspots in the metropolis.

Fernando said this would weed out the drug pushers in the area, adding that the scheme was effective in Marikina where a big-time drug syndicate was weeded out because of the system.

"I highly recommend this scheme," said Fernando.

Under the scheme, a drug-infested area will be physically secured and checkpoints would be set up.

A non-resident who wants to enter the area would be required to register, state his reason for coming to the area, his length of stay there and the name of the person he would be visiting.

Fernando said this would discourage drug buyers from going to the area, and encourage dealers to move their operations to another place, which would mean more risks for the pushers.

The idea, Fernando said, was to disrupt business.

SEC man nabbed for bribery

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents arrested an employee of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) last week for extorting money from a businessman.

Michael Pajarillo, of Bago Bantay, Quezon City, and a complaint specialist of the SEC, was nabbed after receiving P20,000 in marked money from complainant Rafael Sofio, NBI officials said.

Sofio, an incorporator of the Emirates Construction Corporation, was applying for his company's increase in capitalization with the SEC.

When Sofio met with Pajarillo for the processing of the application, the latter demanded P100,000 from the victim.

Sofio agreed to pay P20,000 as initial down and decided to inform the authorities about the suspect.

Charges of direct bribery had been filed against Pajarillo, NBI officials said.

Margaux Ortiz

Young, dead and forsaken

IT COULD have been all his family could afford.

The body of a month-old boy was found inside a small carton box behind a mausoleum in the Eternal Garden Cemetery in Baesa, Caloocan City yesterday morning.

SPO2 Antonio Paras, who was called to the scene, said the baby's family might have been too poor to afford a proper funeral.

"The baby was dressed properly," Paras said. "Maybe the family left the baby there because they didn't have enough money for a funeral."

He said the police would not investigate further since they saw no sign of abuse. The body is now at the Cinco Estrella Funeral Homes in Quezon City.

Barangay officials, through Councilor Dolores Balastigue, will bury the boy.

Tarra Quismundo

Inquirer Libre soon in airport, LRT2

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ve captured your market.

INQUIRER president Sandy P. Romualdez and MIAA general manager Edgardo Manda are all smiles after the signing yesterday of an agreement allowing Libre's distribution at the Naia Terminal 2. Below, Ms Romualdez shakes hands with Light Rail Transit Authority administrator Teodoro Cruz after the signing last week of a new agreement allowing the distribution of Libre at the LRT Line 2 as PDI senior vice president for corporate relations David Valdes (left) and LRTA administrative department manager Melchor Alonzo look on. ROMY HOMILLADA

By Jerome Aning

AFTER trains and ferries, INQUIRER Libre may be read at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 starting on July 1.

Libre is the Philippine Daily Inquirer's free tabloid for commuters.

INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and Manila International Airport Authority general manager Edgardo Manda yesterday signed a contract allowing the distribution of Libre at Naia 2's greeters' area.

David O. Valdes, PDI senior vice president for corporate services, and MIAA senior GM Oscar Paras Jr. co-signed the contract.

Libre will also be available starting July 1 to passengers of Light Rail Transit 2, which runs from Santolan, Pasig to Cubao, Quezon City.

The agreement on the distribution of the free paper in the newest LRT line was signed last week.

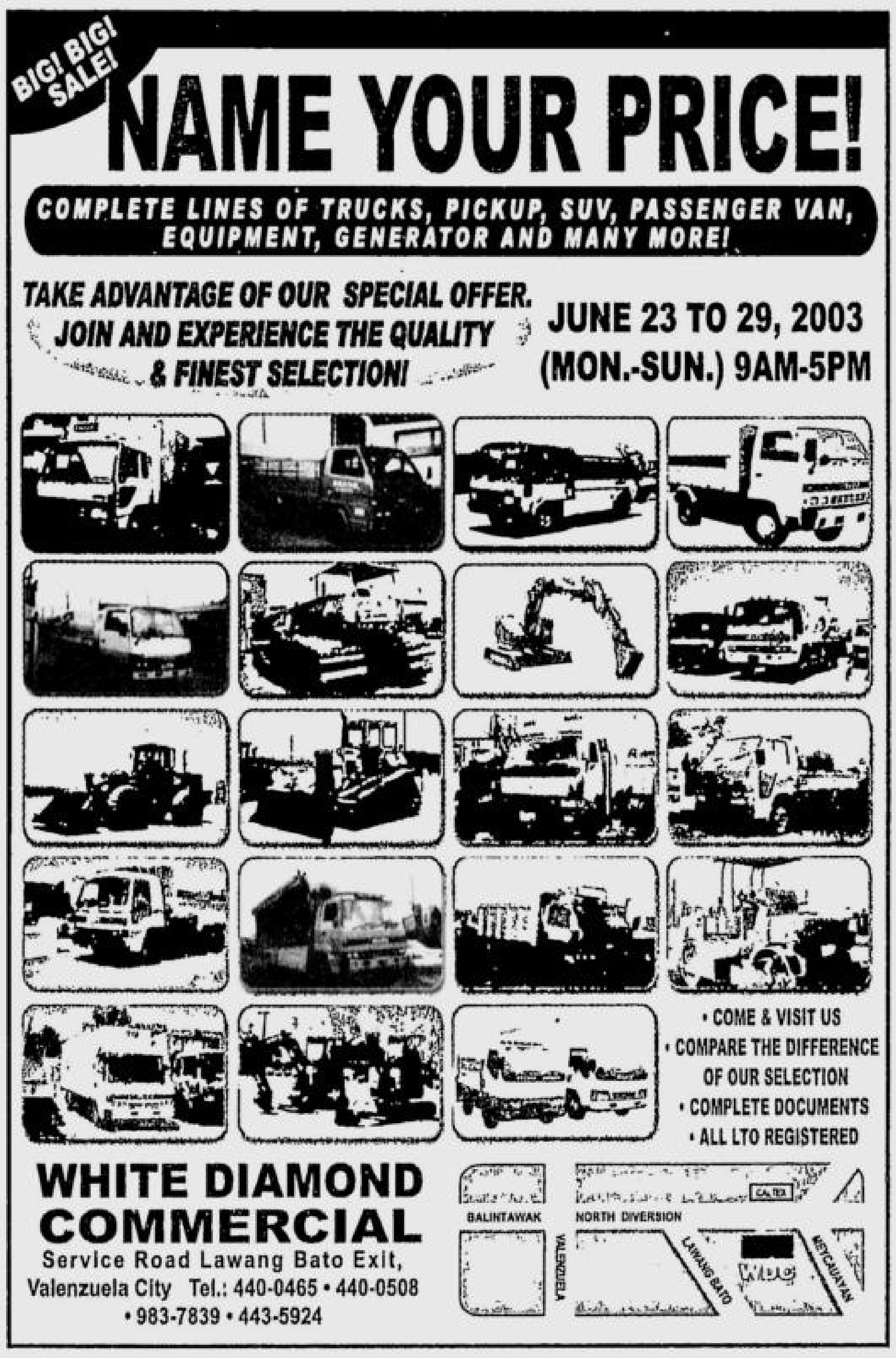
The new agreement also provides for the distribution of Libre in three more stations of LRT 1. These are in R. Papa, Doroteo Jose and UN Avenue.

Romualdez said Libre hopes to tap a large readers' market at Naia 2, where at least 16,000 arrive daily from various international and domestic origins.

Manda said that if an arriving passenger at Naia 2 has three to four persons waiting for him, then the readership figure could easily double or even triple.

Manda said that for the 3,000 to 4,000 overseas Filipino workers arriving daily at Naia 2, the waiting people would be more than five.

Libre is distributed free from Monday to Friday in selected Metro Star Express and Light Rail Transit stations, as well as the SuperFerry.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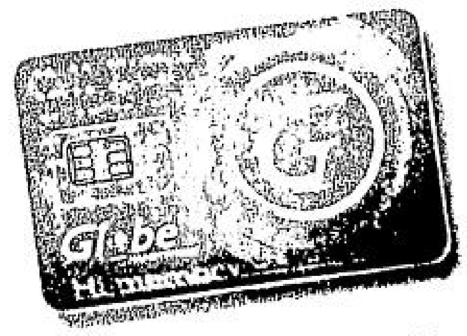

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A big SEAG roster of 'the best in the land'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THEY "are the best in the land."

This was the justification the Philippine Olympic Committee came up yesterday as it announced a roster of 361 athletes to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games, with about 100 more expected to join the RP contingent before the September deadline.

It is the biggest RP delegation to the biennial sportsfest since the Brunei SEAG where the country fielded 258 athletes. The national delegation in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEAG was 359.

"We are not sending tourists to the SEA Games. We have picked the athletes based on the criteria we have set," said POC screening committee head Steve Hontiveros, who is also the POC first vice president.

Chief of mission and screening committee co-chair Julian Camacho of wushu added: "We have made honest-to-goodness choices according to our best judgment."

The POC will have to fund the participation of most of the athletes, however, since the criteria used by the POC were not as strict as the standard set by the Philippine Sports Commission.

As far as the PSC is concerned, it is funding only 279 athletes who have passed the criteria of either a silver in the 2001 SEAG or a bronze in the 2002 Asian Games. Additional athletes joining this list will have to be recommended by a task force the PSC created to make sure only those qualified make it to Vietnam.

The PSC has a P40 million budget alone for hotel and actual participation of the RP contingent, and chair Eric Buhain said he has to account for every peso spent during the Games.

There are 91 athletes who have yet to justify their inclusion in the POC roster plus around 15 entries from track and field, which will be determined after the Asian Athletics Championships in September.

Hontiveros said the POC, which used a more lenient and relaxed criteria in choosing the RP bets, said it would support the athletes the PSC will ignore.

HONTIVEROS: POC used a more lenient criteria.

Aside from a gold or silver medal finish in the 2002 SEAG or any SEA championships, the POC also considered a top eight finish in the Asian Games, a top 15 finish in World Championships, and outstanding records in other competitions including national meets.

Slots assured for the 27 sports disciplines where the country is competing are swimming (5 athletes), diving (6), water polo (13), archery (8), badminton (6), men and women basketball (24), billiards (9), bodybuilding (5), canoeing (4), boxing (9), chess (10), cycling (21), fencing (17), women football (20), gymnastics (3), judo (14), karatedo (23), pencak silat (16), rowing (10), sepak takraw (12), shooting (12), table tennis (5), taekwondo (16), tennis (7), traditional boat race (25), men and women volleyball (24), weightlifting (5), wrestling (16), wushu 16).

There are 231 men and 134 women in the RP roster so far. Officials will make up no more than 50 percent of the actual athletes' count.

The Philippines, which is hoping to finish third overall in Vietnam, posted a gold-silver-bronze medal count of 20-26-41 in Brunei and 31-65-67 in Kuala Lumpur.

But there are five events in Kuala Lumpur which are missing in Vietnam—bowling, golf, lawn bowling, sailing and squash where the country captured a total of five golds, seven silvers and six bronzes in 2001.

Observers feel the bloated contingent in Vietnam is in line with the POC's decision to give the RP athletes enough experience for a big splash in 2005 when the SEAG returns to Manila.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Draft 2003; 7 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.); Solar Sports—LeBron, Darco and Melo formally make their entry to the NBA as the annual draft is aired lived from Madison Square Garden.

TENNIS: Wimbledon 2003; Day 4 Highlights; 8 a.m. (r - 5:30 p.m.); Third Round, Day 4; 10:30 a.m. (r); Day 5; 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.; Star Sports—The finest tennis players slug it for a chance to be crowned as the king and queen of the grass court.

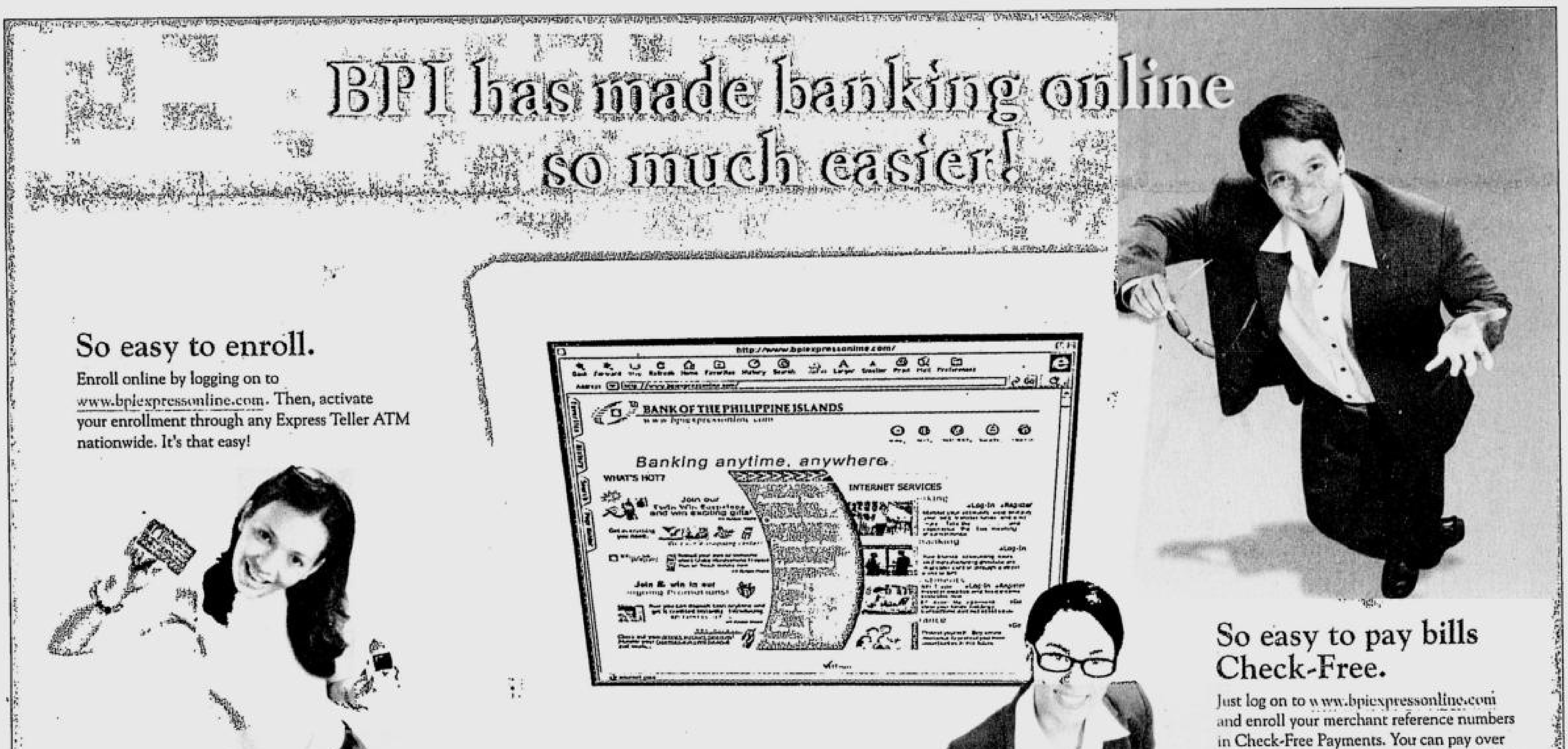
MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Qualifying - Allianz Grand Prix of Europe; 7:55 p.m.; Star Sports—Schumacher, Montoya, Raikonnen and company slug it out for pole position in Germany.

BASEBALL: MLB—Phillies vs Braves; 7:30 a.m. (r - 3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN - Philadelphia and Atlanta clash with each other in this National League match - up.

GOLF: U.S. Senior Open Preview; 12 noon (r); First Round; 11:30 a.m. (r); Second Round; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; ESPN - The old - timers flash their brilliant forms once more.

PGA Fedex St. Jude Classic; 3:30 p.m. (r) and tomorrow 4 a.m.; Star Sports—The top par—busters tee off from Elvis' hometown.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice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'King Karlo' takes second Australian scalp

WIMBLEDON, England—Ivo Karlovic is finally getting noticed for something besides his 6-foot-10 (2.08-meter) frame.

The Croatian qualifier, who shocked top-seeded defending champion Lleyton Hewitt in four sets in the first round of Wimbledon, is through to the third round.

This time there was no giant-killing involved. Karlovic's opponent Wednesday was Australian qualifier Paul Baccanello, ranked only one place higher than him at 204.

Karlovic won 6-4, 7-6 (3), 5-7, 6-2, serving up 29 aces and suffered none of the nerves that crippled his first set against Hewitt on Center Court. His backhand and volleying was also sharp at the net.

Croatian countryman Goran Ivanisevic seems to have left some of his magic on Wimbledon Center Court since his win in 2001. Last year, Croatian teenager Mario Ancic beat seventh-seeded Roger Federer in the first round there.

Karlovic has a tougher obstacle in the next round in his attempt to prove he's not a one-match wonder. It's Max Mirnyi.

Ranked No. 35 in the world, Mirnyi is also the only player able to stand up to Karlovic—the Belorussian is 6-5 (1.95 meters). On Wednesday, Mirnyi beat another talented Croatian, Ivan Ljubicic, 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. *AP*

RODDICK focuses on the ball and reaps dividends
REUTERS

Mad, like Rude-sedski

Briton's foul-mouthed tirade steals shine from Roddick win

WIMBLEDON, England—The biggest tantrum so far at Wimbledon was so excessive that even John McEnroe disapproved.

Maybe Andy Roddick didn't need the help, but Greg Rusedski's profanity-laced meltdown in the third set ended his comeback bid in their second-round slugfest Wednesday.

After Rusedski lost his cool, Roddick won the final five games to finish off the angry Englishman, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (1), 7-5.

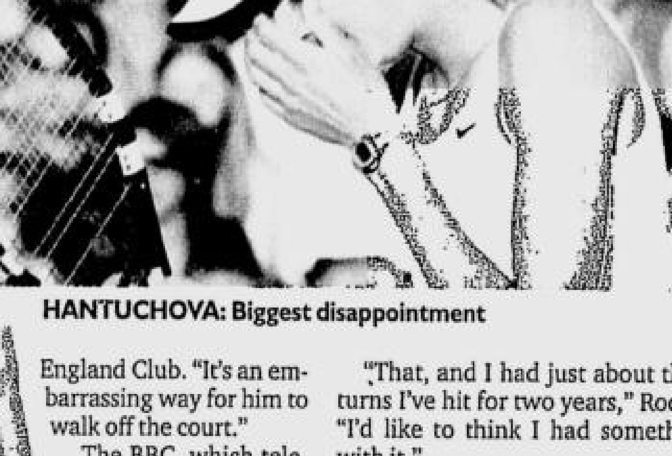
"He got pretty upset," Roddick said.

The blowup came when Rusedski led 5-2 in the third set. With Roddick serving at 30-15, Rusedski stopped playing a point when a fan erroneously shouted that a shot was out. Roddick won the point, and chair umpire Lars Graff let it stand, rather than replaying it.

"Ridiculous," Rusedski shouted at Graff during the ensuing changeover. He accused the umpire of allowing the fan to change the course of the match.

Rusedski couldn't regain his composure. In what had been a tight match, he won only five of the final 23 points beginning with the disputed ruling.

ASAGOE: Victorious AP



HANTUCHOVA: Biggest disappointment AP

"He was playing well, and he let that just get under his skin," said McEnroe, a three-time Wimbledon champion who launched a few tirades himself at the All England Club. "It's an embarrassing way for him to walk off the court."

The BBC, which televised the match and picked up Rusedski's profanities on a courtside microphone, apologized to viewers.

"I lost it a little bit on that call," Rusedski said more than an hour after the defeat. "I apologize for my language. It was not necessary. . . Your emotions can sometimes take control of you because you want it so badly."

Roddick took exception to the suggestion that Rusedski's unraveling was the sole reason for the lopsided final few games.

"That, and I had just about the best returns I've hit for two years," Roddick said. "I'd like to think I had something to do with it."

Roddick, seeded fifth but the favorite with London oddsmakers, advanced to the third round for the third year in a row. He'll try to reach the fourth round for the first time when he plays No. 25 Tommy Robredo, who beat American Brian Vahaly.

That match will be overshadowed by a towering encounter between 6-foot-10 (2.08-meter) Ivo Karlovic, the tallest player in Wimbledon history, and 6-5 (1.95-meter) Max Mirnyi. Two days after upsetting defending champion Lleyton Hewitt, Karlovic beat fellow qualifier Paul Baccanello.

Another noteworthy third-round match will pit No. 4 Roger Federer against Mardy Fish. The unseeded Fish reached the third round for the first time by beating fellow American Jan-Michael Gambill 6-4, 6-4, 6-1. *AP*

Never-say-die Asagoe stuns Hantuchova

WIMBLEDON, England—When asked if Wednesday's loss at Wimbledon was the biggest disappointment of her tennis life, Daniela Hantuchova answered without speaking.

Her face became flushed, and she bit her lower lip.

In other words: Yes.

The ninth-seeded Slovakian squandered a fast start, blew a 5-2 lead in the final set, failed to convert three match points and lost to Shinobu Asagoe, 0-6, 6-4, 12-10.

"This tournament means a lot to me, and I really wanted to do well," Hantuchova said.

After her third-set lead slipped away, Hantuchova often appeared to be fighting back tears between points and during changeovers. She had two match points serving at 5-3 and another at 5-4, and she also had leads of 7-6, 9-8 and 10-9.

"I just didn't take my chances," she said.

Hantuchova was touted as a rising star while reaching the quarterfinals of three consecutive Grand Slam events, including Wimbledon last year. But her past two major tournaments have ended with marathon second-round defeats.

At the French Open, Hantuchova rallied from a 5-1 deficit in the third set and served for the match at 6-5 but lost to American Ashley Harkleroad, 7-6 (2), 4-6, 9-7 in 3 hours, 8 minutes.

This time Hantuchova played for 2:47.

"It's very disappointing to have two in a row like this," she said.

Hantuchova's slender physique has raised questions about her diet and fitness. *AP*

Dad wants Williams sisters out of tennis

WIMBLEDON, England—Richard Williams figures his two famous daughters will be out of tennis in a few years.

"If I had the chance to, I would get them out of tennis right away," he said Wednesday at Wimbledon. "I tried to get Venus to stop playing tennis when she was nine years old."

Serena, 21, is the defending Wimbledon champion and has won five Grand Slams.

Venus, 23, has won four Grand Slams.

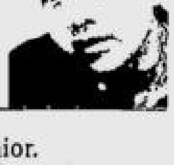
Williams has always bragged he has raised well-bred, well-balanced children—not just great tennis players.

"The children in my house must understand finance and investment, and they had to learn there's a life beyond the baseline," he said. "The kids who only do tennis and don't know that, I think it's very sad.

"It's time for someone else to come along and carry the torch, and it's time for them to move on and set more goals in business," he said. *AP*

Cito vs Eric: What, me as their referee?

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

IT'S like this.

Since Cito Dayrit is older than Eric Buhain, Cito should take the lead. In rifts, as in lovers' spats, age does matter.

The elderly bows, bends a little, because he/she is wizened by age. Like vintage wine, we become wiser to the ways of the world as we age. Supposedly, that is.

Besides, our culture says so. Not just us, but all of mankind. The folks seem to be always wiser, if not better, than the kids.

A parent can always forgive but not a child.

A child is sometimes belligerent, a parent always intelligent.

A parent-child relationship is a give-and-take affair. A parent always gives, a child always takes.

In the current Cito-Eric war, Cito, because he is much older (he is 50-plus, Eric is 32), is supposed to be wiser than Eric. Alas, it seems the contrary is happening.

What do we have here, a reincarnation of the Marcos-Ninoy war?

Marcos was the older of the two and yet, in their battle warped by time, Ninoy would end up the real, big winner. Why? Because Marcos bullied Ninoy when he was supposed to be big brother to a kid exhibiting spectacular signs of leadership qualities. Ninoy was town mayor at 21, senator at 34.

Had Marcos helped nurture Ninoy's potentials instead of suppressing them with the viciousness of a tyrant (which he did), who knows, maybe they would be both martyrs of the land now. Not just Ninoy.

In the current Cito-Eric feud, both are quite right. We do need a strong contingent to Vietnam as our performance there would determine our readiness when we host the SEA Games in 2005.

But in ventilating their respective positions, Cito is the hothead, Eric Mr. Cool. Roles reversed to the max: The younger Eric more diplomatic than Cito, his senior.

I don't know if Cito knows it, but at the rate he's going, he may yet end up loser in the eyes of a discerning, if not stunned-by-now, public. His style could bring him down. I can liken him to a lawyer: A lawyer may be good but if he is brash, the judge may take offense and may rule against him/her.

Cito should take heed: Anger makes one a virtual lunatic.

The truth is crystal clear: Cito and Eric have set the parameter for athletes going to the December SEA Games in Vietnam. And it's this: Candidates must either hit the bronze performance in the 2002 Busan Asian Games or the silver in the 2001 SEA Kuala Lumpur Games.

Eric has stuck to that. Alas, not Cito.

Eric has stood his ground. Consistently. He repeats his position again: I will only spend for those 300 or so athletes who passed the criterion.

Instead of drawing applause from Cito, Eric gets fired upon with shots that are totally off-course.

Cito did that because he made a detour, without informing Eric about it? The detour would now make athletes who didn't pass the grade eligible for Vietnam because Cito said so?

If that is the case—and seemingly, it is—then the code words of honorable men have deserted us.

Cito telling us Eric should spend for 700 or so athletes is in contravention to what had been agreed upon between two guys supposed to be steep in honor.

If he has, indeed, said that, wasn't Cito trying to renege from an agreement?

Bullying the kid, even?

If that is so, I think it's not yet late in the day. Cito must initiate peace talks. My advice: You want Eric's money, talk to him. Humor him if need be. Beggars cannot be choosers, remember?

The rule is, you don't win your case hitting the money man. In public at that. That's like peeing against the wall: The wall cannot complain.

Eric is not complaining, has not been complaining. Amazingly, he has been showing grace amid the attacks hurled by Cito. Eric has not hit back, except to say he is just merely trying to abide by what has been agreed upon between him and Cito.

I guess I'll now have to modify my stand and start believing that, at times, age doesn't matter. That in war, as in love, age is immaterial. I guess Eric knows that too damn well more than Cito. An aberration?

I wish I could talk to both and become their referee—for free. If they agree, my only rule would be no hitting below the belt.

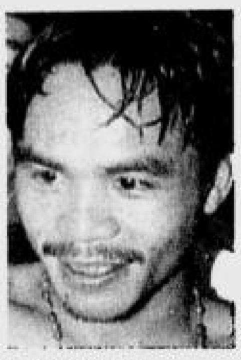
While saying that, I'll be staring Cito straight in the eye.

***

FASTBREAK. Dante Velasco, my erudite friend of many years, tells me that Rudy Hartono, the Indonesian 8-time IBF world badminton champion who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1997, is now part of the prestigious GoldQuest International Ltd. GoldQuest has just minted a gold coin and a medallion made of 999.9 gold available in one-ounce and 10-gram editions. With that, Hartono joins our very own Ninoy Aquino, the first Filipino to be featured in a GoldQuest coin. Further, the two are now members of the "Champion for Peace" club of GoldQuest that include legends like Mahatma Gandhi, John F. Kennedy, Mother Teresa and Lady Diana.

Pacquiao flies to US Tuesday

By Salven L. Lagumbay


PACQUIAO

REIGNING IBF super bantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao will finally leave for the United States Tuesday to keep his title date with New York-based Mexican Emmanuel "Carnecerio" Lucero on July 26 at the Los Angeles Grand Olympic auditorium.

The travel documents of the southpaw Pacquiao and trainer Restituto "Buboy" Fernandez were released yesterday, paving the way for their departure next week with business manager Rod Nazario.

Pacquiao had wanted to leave early and resume heavy training in California at the Wild Card Gym of famous American trainer Freddie Roach, but visa problems kept him home.

Pacquiao, 36-2-1 with 28 KO's, will defend his crown for the fourth time against Lucero, who parades a fearsome 21-0-1 record with 12 KO's.

So far, Pacquiao has had some sparring against big boys Rud 4K Kevkatche, his brother Bobby, and Noynoy Gonzales. Pacquiao has reportedly been roughing up his sparmates at the Almendras Gym in Davao and Manila's L&M Gym.

Pacquiao snatched the IBF 122-lb title by knocking out South African Lehlohonolo Ledwaba on June 23, 2001 at MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

In his first defense, which was a unification bout with WBO titlist Agapito Sanchez in San Francisco, Pacquiao figured in a sixth-round technical draw with the dirty-fighting Dominican Republic fighter. A few months later, Sanchez was diagnosed to have suffered from eye problems and subsequently stripped of his title.

Dableo beats Viet, takes solo lead in Asian zonal

By Roy Luarca

SUDDENLY, Filipino NM Ronald Dableo is alone at the top of the Asian Zonal 3.2a Championships.

Dableo, the reigning Philippine Open titlist, beat Vietnamese youngster Le Quang Liem in the sixth round Wednesday night to surge ahead of the 36-man field at the First Hotel in Ho Chih Minh City.

The 24-year-old Dableo boosted his total to 5 points, half a point ahead of roommate Mark Paragua, who played to an expected draw with GM Eugene Torre.

More important, Dableo closed in on the International Master title.

According to Fide (World Chess Federation) guidelines, the player who'll garner 6 points in the tournament will be conferred an IM title outright. The champion, on the other hand, gets a Grandmaster result.

Dableo, a member of the Army Special Services Unit, will be facing Vietnamese Nguyen Ngoc Truong (4 points) in the pivotal seventh round of the Swiss System event, which serves as a qualifier for next year's World Chess Championships.

Facing compatriots, the 19-year-old Paragua has drawn his last three games to drop out of the lead he held in the first three rounds. Paragua also split the point with Dableo in Round Five and GM Joey Antonio in Round Four.

Antonio agreed to a truce with Vietnam's Pham Chuong and was at 4 points in the company of Torre, the 13-year-old Liem, Singaporean GM Wu Shao Bin, Indon IM salor Sitanggang, FM Sadikin Irwanto, Truong and Chuong.

GM Bong Villamayor rebounded by whipping Jason Goh, but with just 3.5 points faces the tough task of sweeping his last three games to earn a return ticket to the world championships, where he saw action in 2001.

In the distaff side, WIM Arianne Bo Caoili stayed in title contention by dumping Malaysian Siti Zulaikha and raising his total to 4 points.

Caoili climbed to a share of the 3rd to 6th places, but faces a formidable foe in the seventh round Thursday.

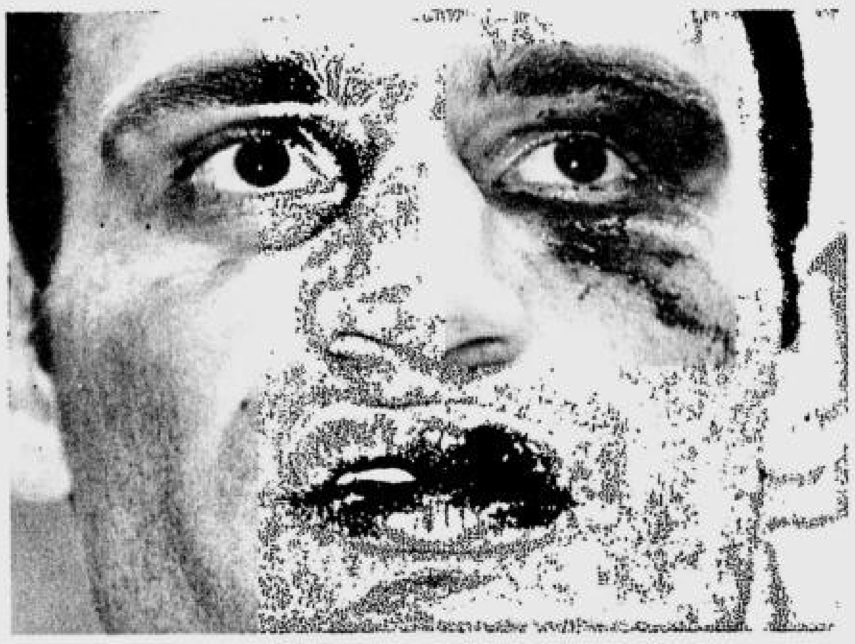
Blocking Caoili's path is pacesetter Bathuyag Mongontuul of Mongolia, who has 5.5 points.

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS

From page A27

1. True
2. 17
3. Martina Navratilova
4. A naked woman ran across the court
5. Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia)
6. 1957
7. Smallest male player at 4'11"


VITALI Klitschko shows his injuries after the bout.

REUTERS

Klitschko cuts needed sixty stitches to close

BEVERLY HILLS, California—Vitali Klitschko had 60 stitches removed from the cut over his left eye inflicted by Lennox Lewis in their recent heavyweight title bout.

Klitschko was examined by Dr. Pearlman Hicks at his Beverly Hills office and Hicks said Wednesday that the cuts, including one to Klitschko's lip, had healed "extremely fast."

"Vitali should have no contact for 60 days, but would be cleared to fight by three months," Hicks said.

Klitschko was ahead on all three judges' scorecards in the fight last Saturday at Staples Center when it was stopped at the end of the sixth round because of the cuts.

Klitschko is campaigning to get Lewis back in the ring for a rematch both he and a lot of boxing fans believe he deserves.

"Nobody expected me to fight Lennox Lewis," he said. "They expect him to win easy, but I surprised everybody.

"I could have kept fighting," he added. "I know I can beat him. I really hope he gives me a rematch. That is the fight the people want, and that is the fight I want."

Lewis said he would only agree to a rematch "if the price is right." *AP*

Tough ring test for Cebu's Paro

ALA Boy Sherwin "Super Assassin" Paro of Cebu, the country's No. 1 flyweight contender, will face Nathan Barcelona on July 19 in a 10-round bout at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque.

The power-punching Paro, undefeated in 10 fights with 7 KO's, and the veteran Barcelona will fight in the undercard of the WBC International fight for the vacant super-flyweight title pitting Malcolm Tuñacao against a yet to be named opponent.

Promoter Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde said he is looking for a worthy opponent for Tunacao, the former WBC flyweight champ, after Indon Julio delas Basez backed out. *Salven Lagumbay*

Bulldogs tame Jaguars

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—St. Clare-Caloocan vs Assumption-Pampanga
4 p.m.—St. Francis vs FEU

NATIONAL University continued its remarkable buildup to the UAAP when it blasted Philippine School of Business Administration, 77-54, yesterday in the Champions' League Grudge Games at the Makati Coliseum.

The Bulldogs, winners of this year's Fr. Martin's Cup, banked on the explosive shows of Rey Mendoza and Ronnie Cajayon to tear the Jaguars apart.

NU never relinquished a 30-17 first quarter lead as the PSBA ballcarriers had a hard time bringing the ball down.

"We were able to pressure their ballcarriers," said NU mentor Rico Perez. He noted that defense, which forced the Jaguars to commit turnovers, fed the Bulldogs' transition game.

NU enjoyed a 19-6 advantage in turnover points and a 19-6 edge in fastbreaks.

University of the East joined NU in the round of 32 national finals set on November by dumping Lyceum, 83-69.

Scores:

NU 77--Mendoza 21, Cajayon 18, Catamora 8, Miclat 6, Tolentino 6, Mollena 4, Balijon 4, Malcontento 3, Malagueno 3, Baguion 2, Moradas 2, Catamora 0.

PSBA 54--Tarronas 12, Caceres 9, Diaz 7, Federizo 6, Kallos 6, Belano 5, Libardo 5, Abundo 3, Lozada 1, Bangoy 0, Cole 0.

Quarters: 30-17, 51-25, 70-41, 77-64

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Onate guns for Paba crown

REIGNING Philippine featherweight champ Jeffrey Oñate aims to become the third Filipino to win a Pan Asian Boxing Association (PABA) championship today.

The 29-year old Oñate (27-14-6, 15 knockouts) faces former World Boxing Association (WBA) super bantamweight champ Yoddamrong "Sithyodthong" Singhwangcha (34-1-1, 17 KOs) for the vacant PABA 126-pound interim title at The Mall Department Store in Thaphra, Bangkok, Thailand.

In the undercard, two junior flyweights Filipinos will also see action .

Acasio "Flash" Simbajon Simbajon (11-27-3, 3 KOs) takes on former World Boxing Association (WBA) light-flyweight champ Pichit Chor Siriwat, who has other name Pichitnoi Sithbangphrachan (27-2, 11 KOs) in a rematch, while Rodel "Kid" Orais faces (11-8-1, 5 KOs) debutante Payarkthamin Vor Sakornrit.
Rey Danseco

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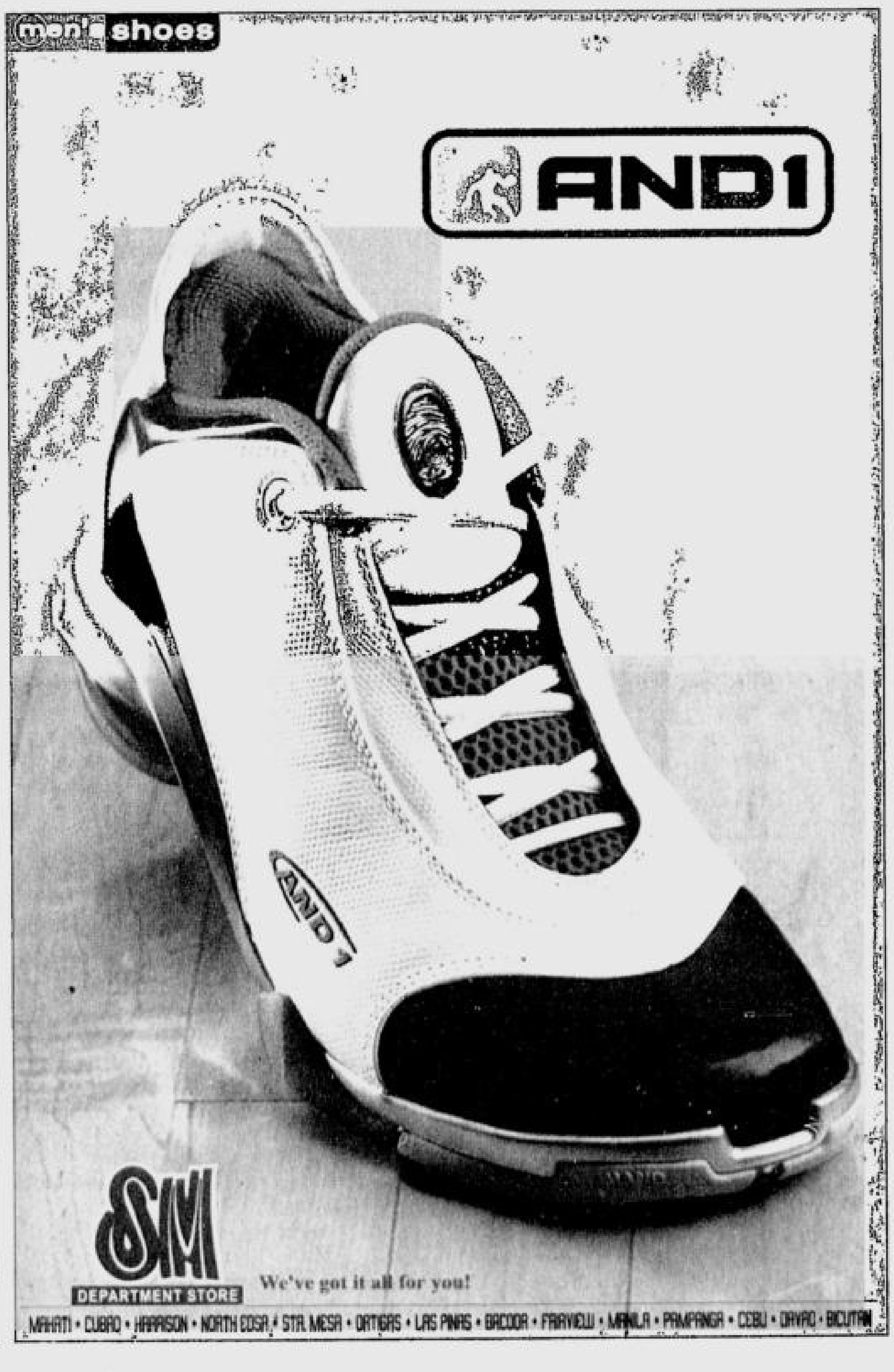
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Pals go for the kill

By Roy Luarca

TAULAVA: We have to play like we're down 1-2.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

ASI Taulava and Patrick Fran have a strongly worded message for their fellow Talk N Text Phone Pals tonight.

"Kill them (Alaska Aces). Otherwise, we may be the ones who'll end up dead."

Well, Taulava and Fran can't be faulted for giving the stern warning. They've been instrumental in giving the Phone Pals a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series and they know that it would be foolish to give the Aces a new lease on life.

"*Mahirap kapag binigyan pa namin sila ng buhay, baka kami ang patayin,*" said Fran—the remaining player from the Talk N Text team that figured in the 1997 All-Filipino semis and ultimately finished fifth behind eventual champion Purefoods, Gordon's Gin (now Barangay Ginebra), Sta. Lucia Realty and San Miguel Beer.

It's only now that the Phone Pals have gotten back to the semis and, predictably, the roster and the coaching staff look different.

Main man

Taulava is now TnT's main man while Fran, a rookie back then, is the starting point guard.

Also, the Phone Pals have a new coach in Joel Banal, who replaced Derick Pumaren, now coach of FedEx.

Gone with Pumaren were Andrew John Seigle, Jeffrey Cariaso, Franz Pumaren, Glen Capacio, Al Solis and Alvin Teng.

The new-look Phone Pals have exceeded their predecessors' showing.

"The team has never gone this far in this tournament and we have to take this opportunity," said Taulava, who is the top contender for Best Player of the Conference honors.

"This win would not mean anything if we don't win the series," said Banal after the Phone Pals ripped the Aces, 87-74, in Game Three Wednesday night.

Banal and Taulava, however, were not yet about to count the Aces out.

They agreed Alaska has so much experience that it knows how to come back.

"They're far from beaten. They have what it takes to come back in this series and we have to look forward to that," said Banal.

Taulava offered they have to be doubly smart if they were to go for the jugular of the Aces tonight. "We have to play like we're down 1-2, instead of being ahead 2-1," he said.

Meaning, they'll still be on the offensive and leave little room for the Aces to counterattack tonight. The Phone Pals better be wary of an ambush, however. They themselves said the Aces are capable of sneaking from behind.

ALASKA fans may turn silent after tonight's Game Four.

Coke, Tal
eye clinch

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports Arena)*
5 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Coca-Cola
7:30 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Alaska

COCA-COLA and Talk N Text seek to finish off their semifinal foes today and arrange a championship showdown in the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Philsports Arena.

The defending champion Tigers ripped the Sta. Lucia Realtors, 94-80, while the Phone Pals blasted the Alaska Aces, 87-74, Wednesday to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series.

With their backs against the wall, the Realtors may finally tap the high-scoring Kenneth Duremdes in their bid to stay alive against the Tigers when they clash at 5 p.m.

The Phone Pals go for the clincher against the Aces at 7:30 p.m. with Talk N Text coach Joel Banal hoping to squeeze out the best again from Asi Taulava and his other big men

If the Tigers and the Phone Pals win, the best-of-seven title playoffs start Sunday. In case a fifth game is needed to decide one of the two semifinal series, it will be held Sunday with the championship now starting on Wednesday.

Duremdes, who strained his left calf two weeks ago, suited up in Game 3 but he was obviously not in shape as he rode the bench throughout.

This time, Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua has no other recourse

Blustar adopts UP Fighting Maroons; Yturri new mentor of LBC-Batangas

By Dennis U. Eroa

ANOTHER team has joined the growing list of PBL franchises adopting members of UAAP, the country's most popular collegiate sports league.

PBL chair Dioceldo Sy, owner of Blustar Detergent, announced yesterday that the Detergent Kings will bring to the PBL the core of the University of the Philippines Fighting Maroons.

"This is in line with the PBL's campaign to continue helping budding collegiate dribblers attain their dream of making it to the pros someday. The PBL is a stepping ground and Blustar is willing to give these youngsters the chance," Sy told the INQUIRER.

ICTSI (La Salle), Hapee (Ateneo), Sunkist (UE) and Viva Mineral Water (FEU) are competing in the league.

LBC-Batangas with new coach Tonichi Yturri is also finalizing talks with College of St. Benilde for a similar partnership.

UAAP and NCAA players are allowed to see action in the PBL after playing for two years in their respective leagues.

SY

BACULI

Panlilio, UP team manager Pico Gonzales, coaches Leo Isaac, Pat Aquino and Lito Vergara met last night at the Friday's Restaurant at the Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City.

Sy said the coaching staff will decide on the UP players who will play alongside the Blustar holdovers in the next PBL conference, which will start in November after the end of the UAAP cage wars.

Expected to make it are young center JR Reyes and Rob Bornancin, who is making a comeback this year for the Maroons.

Vergara, picked as best coach last year by the UAAP Press Corps for steering the UP Preps to the junior title, has already joined the practices of the Detergent Kings at the Celebrity Sports Plaza.

The 33-year-old Vergara will join former Maroon enforcer Pat Aquino as Isaac's assistants.

Swingman Eric de la Cuesta, Lou Gatumbato, John Prior, Melvin Taguines, Randy Lopez and Tris Codamon are expected to continue donning Blustar's colors.

Panlilio, former manager of two-time champion Shark Energy Drink, said the entry of UP will add not only to Blustar's prestige but to the PBL as well.

"UP carries a glorious tradition. We are confident that this cooperation will end Blustar's search for its first PBL title," noted Panlilio.

Meanwhile, newly crowned champion Hapee Toothpaste is willing to represent the country in the ABC Champions Cup slated at the end of the year.

Team owner Cecilio Pedro said it will be a big honor for the Lamoiyan franchise to carry the country's colors in the prestigious competition, which features champion clubs from all over Asia.

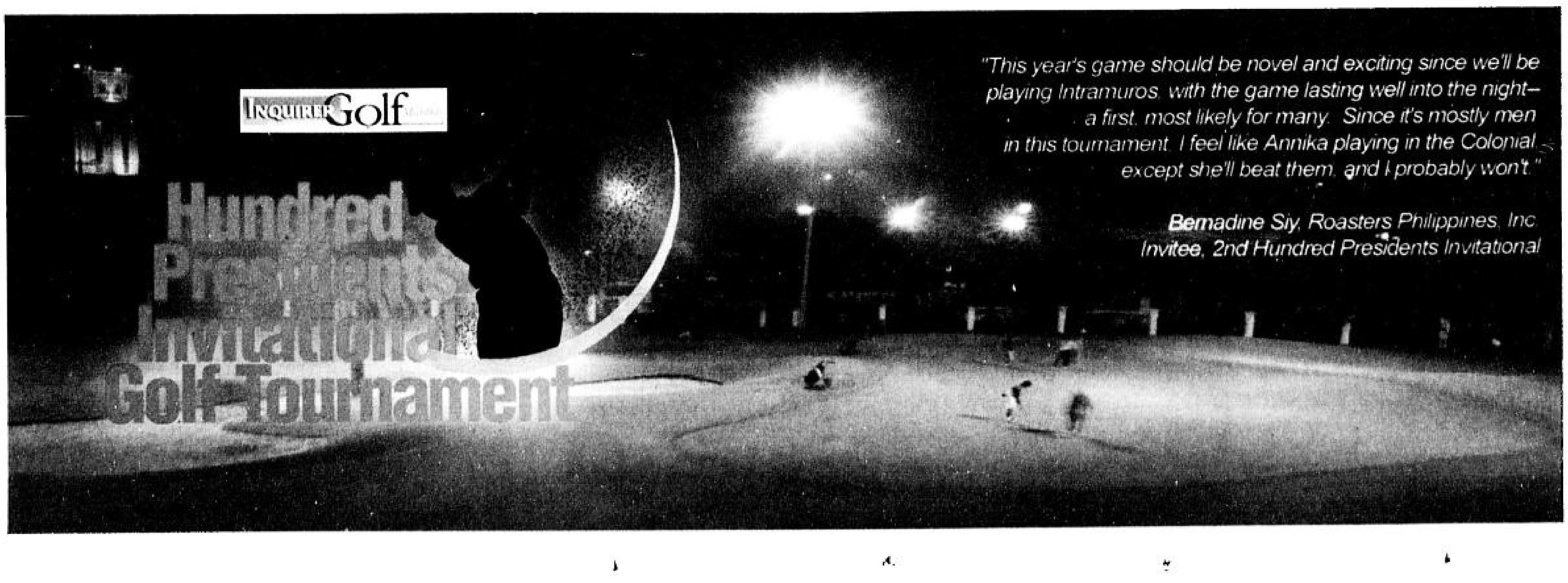
Hapee coach Junel Baculi said Hapee is ready to compete in the Champions Cup.

"Given the right preparations, Hapee can shine in the tournament," said Baculi, who steered the Sparklers to an exciting 3-2 win over Viva Mineral Water in the Unity Cup best-of-five title series.

Baculi, who owns two Champions Cup title, said Hapee's focus at present is on the coming conference.

"We're going to field a team which can keep its title in the next conference set in November," Baculi stressed.

TARPLEY: I have unfinished business.



"This year's game should be novel and exciting since we'll be playing Intramuros, with the game lasting well into the night—a first, most likely for many. Since it's mostly men in this tournament, I feel like Annika playing in the Colonial except she'll beat them, and I probably won't."

Bernadine Siy, Roasters Philippines, Inc.
Invitee, 2nd Hundred Presidents Invitational

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

k N Text
er today

but to field Duremdes, who fired 82 points in the two games he played in the quarterfinals before injuring his foot.

The Tigers are not worried about Duremdes, however. Their immediate concern is how to come up with another energetic display on both ends of the court.

"Our team is built on energy. Hopefully, we could bring back the same amount of energy that we had in Game 3 despite a very short period of rest," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes.

Working behind a tireless defense, the Tigers forced the Realtors into costly errors that fueled their breakaway in the final half.

Reyes said his short rotation on the bench and their propensity to fall into foul trouble due to their tight defense are also major concerns.

With William Antonio nursing a hamstring injury and Johnny Abarrientos still far from 100 percent, Reyes is looking at Rafi Reavis, Jeff Cariaso, Ato Morano, Edward Juinio and Rudy Hatfield to carry much of the load for the Tigers.

Even if Duremdes sees action, Sta. Lucia needs all its key men to deliver unlike in Game 3 where Paolo Mendoza and Gerard Francisco played poorly after going great guns in Game 2.

The Phone Pals, who won Game 1 in overtime, will be in a vengeful mood when they face the Aces, who beat them in last year's Commissioner's Cup semifinals.

Banal will try to make sure that Taulava, Harvey Carey, Mark Telan and Vic Pablo reprise the roles that proved too much to overcome for the Aces.

Tigers on the prowl

By Roy Luarca

THE COCA-COLA Tigers love to wear their opponents down. In the process, however, they get drained themselves.

Coach Chot Reyes knows this, so he makes it a point to give his wards as much rest as possible.

Rather than push them to a hard practice therefore, Reyes opted for a walk through yesterday in preparation for today's Game Four, which he expects to be very physical.

All the Tigers did were watch the video of the semifinal series and do shooting drills.

"I know where they (Sta. Lucia Realtors) are coming from with those hard fouls and trying to always body up our players. They need to slow the game down to their pace because that will work to their advantage, so it's really understandable," Reyes said.

"That's why I've been telling my players to be prepared for that. I told them not to react anymore to hard fouls. We don't want to be dragged into the type of game they want. We've got to be smarter than that," he added.

Longest break

Energized by the longest break they've had since the start of the semifinals, the Tigers went all-out in Game Three Wednesday night and downed the Realtors, 94-80, for a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series.

Reyes could only hope that the Tigers would play with the same ferocity and intensity tonight for them to earn a crack at defending their Samsung PBA All-Filipino All-Filipino title.

"We're a team built on energy. And it's going to take a full-rested and energized team to finish the series (today)," said Reyes. "Hopefully, the adrenalin will flow because it's a championship slot we're playing for."

There's one thing that worries Reyes though.

"Historically, we don't do well when we have to play after just a day's rest.

We played the second game (Wednesday) and the first game (today) so there's very little time to prepare," Reyes said.

"We're very conscious of the rest we get in between games. We plan things right from the last minute of our practice to the tip-off of our game. We really need to find enough energy to make sure we don't come out flat in Game Four," he added.

"We rely on our energy because our strength really is our ability to put a lot of pressure and trap our opponents," Reyes said.

The Tigers can only do that on full power. Not when they're low-batt.

CARIASO: Coca-Cola's go-to guy.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

)rug offender Tarpley
seeks reinstatement

USTON—Former Dallas vericks forward Roy Tarpley, o was banned from the NBA 995 for violating the league's stance-abuse policy, has ap-d for reinstatement to the gue.

arpley, 37, told Houston teleon station KRIV that he hopes evive his NBA career soon.

I feel like I have unfinished iness there," Tarpley said. "If n get another opportunity to y in the league, I am going to d on for dear life. I miss it so ch and I took it for granted ore and I will never do that in."

n NBA spokesman declined omment, citing the terms of league's drug policy.

he NBA's Sixth Man of the r in 1987-88, Tarpley is living in Houston and has been training with former Cleveland Cavaliers coach John Lucas.

After being banned from the NBA in 1995, Tarpley spent five years playing for professional teams throughout Europe. He was out of basketball this season.

Lucas said seven NBA teams have inquired about Tarpley.

"He still has the rebounding and shooting ability," Lucas said. "So with the way the league is structured as far as the salary cap restrictions, someone signing Roy for a million dollars will be a steal of a deal."

Tarpley was the seventh pick in the 1986 NBA draft out of Michigan. He played for the Mavericks from 1986 until he was thrown out of the NBA in October 1991 for using cocaine, a violation of the league's substance-abuse policy.

For two years he played professional basketball in Greece until he was reinstated by the NBA in 1994 and signed a six-year, $20 million contract with the Mavericks.

But Tarpley's NBA return was short-lived. He was permanently banned from the league in December 1995 for using alcohol and violating the terms of a court-imposed personal aftercare program.

"When all of that happened back in '95 it was a big shock to me," Tarpley said. "I just kind of disappeared, but I'm back now. Sometimes you have to go away to be able to come back." *AP*

SPORTS noodle

VOL. I NO. 022

ong Barrameda

Wimbledon

serving of 7 questions, from easi-t to toughest, each with a corre-ponding point value. Can you score perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the her 'sports genius/geniuses' be-de you)?

> 3 Pts.
True / o False: Officially known as e Lawn Tennis Championships, imbledon is the only grand slam urnament played on grass.

> 5 Pts.
ow old was Boris Becker of Ger-any when he became Wimble-n's youngest ever male singles ampion in 1985?
15
o 17

3 > 7 Pts.
Who is the all-time winningest women's player in Wimbledon history, with nine singles titles?
o Billie Jean King
o Helen Wills Moody
o Martina Navratilova

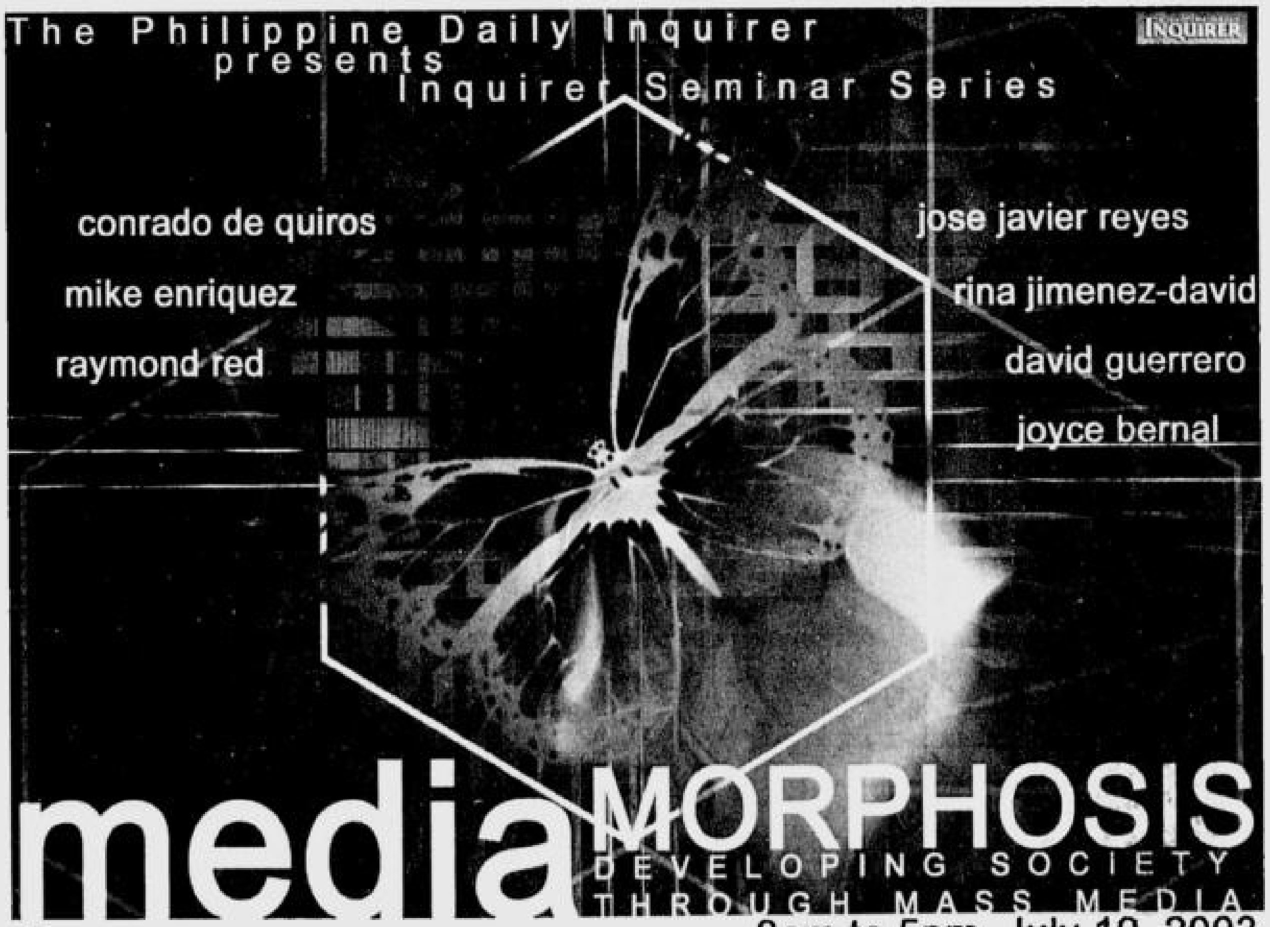
4 > 10 Pts.
What eye-opening event happened just before to the start of the 1996 men's singles final between Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands and Mal Washington of the United States?
o A naked woman ran across the court
o Queen Elizabeth II fell off her chair
o Lightning hit one of the ball boys

5 > 20 Pts.
Which player threatened to punch John McEnroe if he got out of line during their semifinal encounter in 1983? (McEnroe actually beat him in straight sets and went on to win the title.)
o Bjorn Borg
o Ivan Lendl
o Jimmy Connors
o Ilie Nastase

6 > 25 Pts.
Althea Gibson became the first black player--male or female--to win a grand slam tournament when she won the women's crown at Wimbledon in what year?
o 1947
o 1957
o 1967
o 1977

7 > 30 Pts.
Filipino tennis legend Felicisimo 'The Mighty Mite' Ampon played at Wimbledon from 1948 to1953, setting a record that still stands today and perhaps may never be 'topped.' What record is this?

ANSWERS/ A25



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(c) send your email address to mediamorphosis2003@yahoo.com, or;
(d) brochures from PDI Classified Ads office at 5th Floor, SM Megamall Bldg B, Mandaluyong City or from participating schools.
[2] Submit your application form through any of the means specified in the instructions.
[3] Pay the registration fee: 200 as an early bird discount if paid ON or BEFORE July 4, 2003, and 250 if paid ON July 19, 2003. This applies for applicants in the Metro Manila Area Only. Details of HOW, WHERE, and WHEN applicants may pay the registration fee will follow upon receipt of the application form.
[4] FOR THOSE OUTSIDE THE METRO MANILA AREA, the registration fee will still be 200 to be paid on July 19, 2003 provided that the application form is submitted ON OR BEFORE July 4, 2003.

SCHUMACHER

Schumacher targets more records

NURBURGRING, Germany—All-conquering Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher is aiming to add more statistics to his already extensive collection this weekend in his own backyard at the European Grand Prix.

Victory for Schumacher at the Nurburgring would see the German claim his 50th win for Ferrari and would also see him surpass 1,000 career points as he chases a record-breaking sixth world championship.

The Ferrari driver grew up in nearby Kerpen and is out to score his fifth win in six races this season, a win that will extend his advantage at the head of the standings over McLaren driver Kimi Raikkonen.

"Coming to the Nurburgring is something special for me," said Schumacher, who finished second to teammate Rubens Barrichello in the race last year. Raikkonen and teammate David Coulthard will once again drive last year's MP4-17 as they aim to regain the ascendancy in the title race, with the new 2003 car expected to debut at the British Grand Prix next month.

The Nurburgring race will hold special significance for Coulthard, who will start his 150th Grand Prix—125 of which have been with McLaren.

German Heinz-Harald Frentzen is also set to start his 150th Grand Prix in this event with Sauber team.

Minardi's Jos Verstappen will also have cause for celebration as the Dutchman looks to score his first points of the season in his 100th Grand Prix. *AFP*

In-form 'Godzilla' drives in 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida—Japanese slugger Hideki Matsui slugs over in three runs and Andy Pettitte pitched into the eighth inning Wednesday to lead the New York Yankees to a 8-5 win over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

The Devil Rays outhit New York 10-7, but hurt themselves by issuing a team-record 12 walks.

"It tough baseball to watch," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "But you are out there trying to score runs, and if that is how it happens, that's OK. They kept missing in the same place. That is a compliment to the hitters because they were patient enough not to get overanxious."

Matsui, who leads major league rookies with 52 RBIs, had a two-run double in the first off Rob Bell (0-2). The slugger, who is also known in Japan as "Godzilla" for his batting prowess, also drew a bases-loaded walk during New York's five-run fourth.

Pettitte allowed four runs on 10 hits in 7 1-3 innings in improving to 10-1 in his career against the Devil Rays.

The Devil Rays have walked 24 batters in the first three games of a four-game series, including 20 the past two nights.

"It's tough to win that way," said Devil Rays manager Lou Piniella, who had little else to say after his team's seventh loss in eight games.

Mariano Rivera pitched the ninth inning for his 11th save in 12 chances.

In Boston, Nomar Garciaparra homered to cap a nine-run outburst in the eighth inning Wednesday as the Boston Red Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 11-2.

Garciaparra connected for a three-run shot, a day after going 5-for-5. The star shortstop is batting .427 in June.

Jason Varitek also homered for Boston, which improved to a season-best 12 games above .500.

JAPANESE Ichiro Suzuki of the Seattle Mariners runs to third on Bret Boone's single against the Anaheim Angels in the fifth inning in Anaheim, California. Suzuki would later score. The Angels eventually won, 6-3. AFP

Bonds' 73rd homer sells for $450,000

NEW YORK—Todd McFarlane got off much cheaper this time.

The man who paid $3.2 million for Mark McGwire's 70th home run ball in 1999, bought the one Barry Bonds' hit for his record 73rd at an auction Wednesday for $450,000.

Bidding by phone from Dallas, McFarlane was pleased with the outcome.

"I knew it would go for a fraction of the other ball," he said. "I think we did well tonight."

With auctioneer Cathy Elkies running the sale, which was conducted by Lelands.com, bidding began at $200,000 and moved in increments of $25,000.

With all commissions included, the official purchase price will be recorded as $517,500.

There were 12 registered bidders, some of them in the room at the ESPN Zone restaurant., McFarlane, on his way to a business meeting in Arkansas, was bidding over the phone from Dallas with Michael Heffner, president of Leland's, handling his call.

McFarlane said he hoped that his presence in the auction would scare off other bidders.

"I'm hoping that they all know that I'm bidding and they'll go, 'Oh, it's the psycho, he's got too much money,' and nobody will bid and I'll get it for the minimum amount.

NAGA QUALIFIERS: Third placer Joy Pardinas, champion Luisa Raterta and first runner-up Joane Manangat with organizer Rudy Biscocho (left), Cesar Malto, Milo sports executive Pat Goc Ong and regional sales manager Manny Calubaquib. Raterta, Manangat and Pardinas will represent the Bicol region to the national finals in Metro Manila.

Milo marathon 2nd leg in Roxas June 29

THE second leg of the Milo Marathon regional eliminations goes to the acknowledged sea food capital of Roxas City in Capiz this Sunday, June 29.

Only on its second year as host of the event, local organizer William Medina expects some 6,000 runners to answer the starting gun to be fired at exactly 6 a.m. at the Roxas City Plaza in front of the Roxas City Hall.

Among the schools which have already confirmed their participation in this eagerly awaited major sporting event are Filamer Christian College and Capiz National High School with most of the students participants joining the 3K and the 5K fun run side events and the inter-school team running and cheering competitions.

"We are confident that we will exceed last year's number as we want to show that sports is very much alive in this part of the country. Also we would like to be counted as among the biggest regional legs of the Milo Marathon," said Medina who is being supported by the local city government in the event, co-sponsored this year by Bayview Park Hotel, Cebu Pacific, Adidas, Powerbar, My Globe, and the Department of Tourism.

SPORTSWATCH

Tour of Pangasinan slated

DAGUPAN CITY—Who really is the "Hari ng mga Siklista?" Is it Tour ng Pilipinas champion Arnel Quirimit or Enrique Domingo, who posted back-to-back victories in the "Agew na Dagupan" Criterium Bike Race and the Balayan, Batangas Race recently. Dagupan City Mayor Benjie S. Lim intends to resolve the issue in September when he plans to hold "The Magic Tour of Pangasinan." Quirimit, Domingo, other top Pangasinan bikers and members of the national pool would be invited to participate in the road race that would take the cyclists to Pangasinan's four cities—Dagupan, Urdaneta, San Carlos and Alaminos.

UAAP coaches Scoop guests

UAAP coaches Joel Banal of Ateneo, Franz Pumaren of De La Salle and Boysie Zamar of the University of the East and their staff will be the guests in today's Scoop sa Kamayan weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Avenue, Quezon City. They will discuss their respective teams' chances in the coming UAAP cage wars set to start July 12 at the Araneta Coliseum. Also invited to grace the session, sponsored by Photokina Marketing, are key players of the three squads, among them Rich Alvarez, Wesley Gonzales, L.A. Tenorio and Larry Fonacier of the Blue Eagles; Mark Cardona, Manny Ramos and Carlo Sharma of the Archers; and James Yap, Paul Artadi, Nino Canaleta and Ollan Omiping of the Warriors.

Plexibond enters cage finals

PLEXIBOND clinched the first finals seat of the 2nd Regular Tournament of the Architects Basketball Union (ABU) with a 59-54 semifinal win over Permacoat at the FEU gym recently. Plexibond will meet either Multi-Fleck or Acrytex in the winner-take-all finals tomorrow. George Lee Yam led all scorers with 26 points as he towed Plexibond to its sixth win in as many games. Multi-Fleck nipped Acrytex, 67-65, in the other semis encounter to force a knockout match for the second finals berth.

Zulberti rules Libro tourney

EMILIO Zulberti scored a net 41, Jose "Pepo Nuñez a 43 and Tony Ortigas a 46 under the Stableford scoring system to rule their respective divisions in the 1st Libro ni Loren Foundation Invitational Golf Tournament recently in Cabuyao, Laguna. Zulberti triumphed in Class A after edging Philip Judad who had a 40; while Nuñez relegated Vic Alimurong (42) to runner-up position in Class B. Ortigas ruled Class C at the expense of Gregorio Poblador, who shot a 45. "Despite the rains, despite being a weekday, you have all come to make this golf tournament a resounding success," Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said during the awarding ceremony of the fund-raising tournament for the foundation's scholars from the poorest regions of the country. In team competitions, overall low net champion Jun Tolentino (48) led teammates Zaldy Villa (43), Rom Tolentino (40) and Alex Joseph (35) to the Class A championship. Second was the foursome of Joe Jalbuena (40), Henry and Edward Chiongbian, both with 39, and Raul Zamora with 38. The quartet of Chuck Buenaventura (44), Joey Leagogo (37), Rudy Datoc (35) and Armand Santos captured the Class B championship.

Nasac golf at Camp Aguinaldo

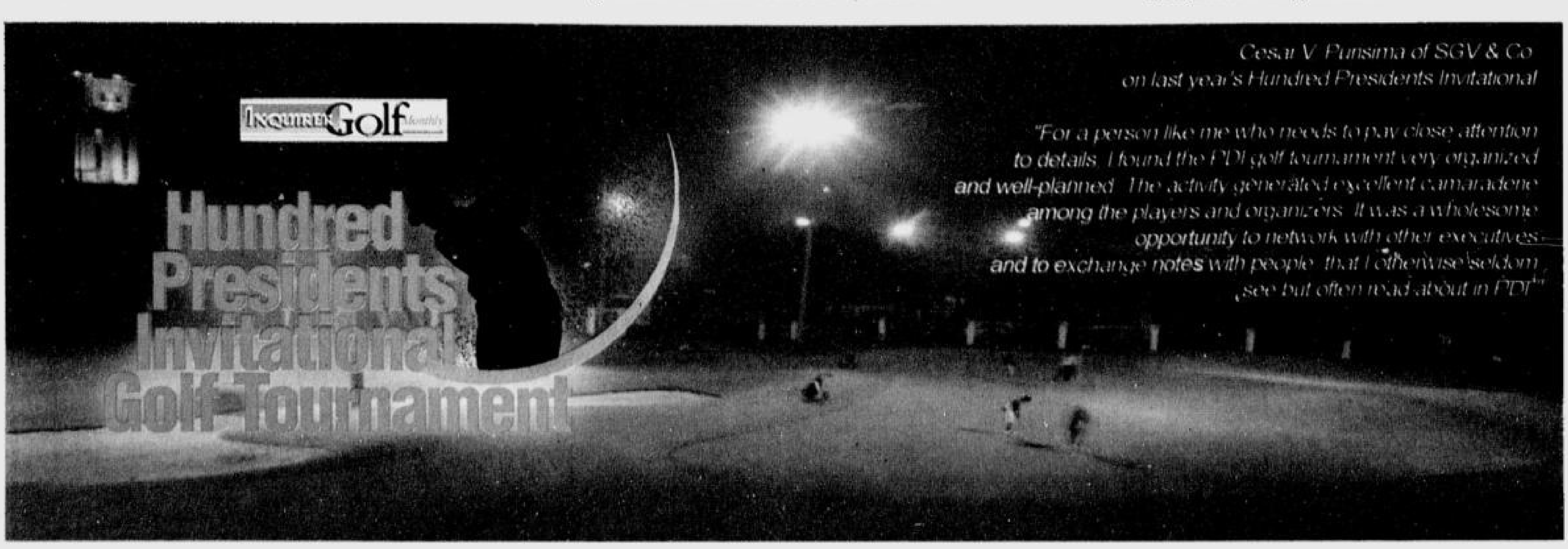
THE FIRST Nasac Chairman's Golf Cup tournament will be held on July 15 at the Camp Aguinaldo course in Quezon City. National Social Action Council (Nasac) chair and former Philippine Sports Commission chair Philip Ella Juico said the event, sponsored by Ramcar, United Laboratories, UCPB General Insurance and Electrobus Consolidated, aims to raise awareness and funds for his group's National Interfaith Agenda for Peace and Development Project. Over a hundred golfers from all over the country are expected to participate. Interested parties may contact the tournament secretariat at 400-9475 or 522-5953.

Youth triathlon at Kapitolyo

THESECOND leg of the 2003 Fit & Tri Youth Triathlon series is set July 6 at the Rizal Racquet Club in Kapitolyo, Pasig. "When we had our first leg last May at the Pacita Complex, we had a big field of 120 entries, this shows that the sport and this event is getting to be popular among the young, that is why we expect another good field for the second leg," said race director Ricky Ledesma of the organizing First Wave Events group. Now on its third year, this youth triathlon program has already produced national level age group champions J.R. Obial and Mimi Lucas who topped their category at the Enervon National Triathlon championships at Subic last June 1. Participants should pre-register before the event by calling 8964544.

SOCCER CHAMPS

The PHILIPPINE Navy team topped the recent 1st Globe Indoor Soccer Challenge and the Gentxt Cup at the Nomad Sports Club. The event, participated in by 20 teams, was highlighted by the use of an inflatable soccer arena, a first in Philippine soccer.



Inquirer Golf Monthly
Hundred Presidents Invitational Golf Tournament
Cesar V. Punsima of SGV & Co
on last year's Hundred Presidents Invitational
"For a person like me who needs to pay close attention to details, I found the PDI golf tournament very organized and well-planned. The activity generated excellent camaradene among the players and organizers. It was a wholesome opportunity to network with other executives and to exchange notes with people that I otherwise seldom see but often read about in PDI"

100 Presidents Invitational golf today

ON THE TEE: INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (in blue shirt) welcomes players to last year's event at Sta. Elena.

By Jong Arcano

THE SECOND staging of the Hundred Presidents Invitational, a golf tournament staged in honor of Philippine Daily Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, will be held today at the Club Intramuros.

At least 80 presidents and CEOs of various multinationals, companies and golf clubs have confirmed participation in the 18-hole tourney which will feature competitions in various handicap levels.

The holding of the Hundred Presidents at Intramuros after last year's highly successful inaugural at the Sta. Elena Golf Club is also in support of the Department of Tourism's Wow Philippines! Project.

It was originally scheduled to be held last May 30 but was postponed due to Typhoon Chedeng.

Prieto-Romualdez, together with PDI chair Marixi Prieto, will lead the hitting of the ceremonial balls.

As an added highlight, the INQUIRER Golf Online, the golf website of INQ7.net and the electronic version of the INQUIRER Golf Monthly, will be launched during the said occasion.

Topping the list of prizes at stake are a Toyota Camry for a hole-in-one on the 10th hole, Taylor Made equipment for division winners and a bonanza of appliances for the raffle. Callaway and Wilson are also boosting the package of giveaways for the participants made up mostly of INQUIRER items.

Among the sponsors are Shell, Unilever, Export and Industry Bank, United Overseas Bank, Tipco, Herma Group, Union Bank, GG&A Clubshares, Aviva Insurance, Golf Pro, Security Bank, New Canaan Insurance, Key Printing, Buenavista, Sta. Elena Properties, Johnnie Walker Black Label and Herma Group.

Also providing support are Waterfront Hotel, The Marco Polo, Diageo Philippines, Phil. Convention & Visitors, Corp., WG&A Super Ferry, Mizuno and Rudy Project.

To be disputed are the top three places in Class A, Class B, Class C, the ladies division and the INQUIRER division.

Korean ahead; Pavin 3 adrift

SEOUL—South Korean sensation Choi Kyung-ju made the perfect start to his homecoming in the Korean Open when he took the first round lead.

Choi, taking time out from his busy US PGA Tour schedule, fired an eight-under-par 64 at Baekahmvista Country Club. He leads by two strokes from compatriots Kang Wook-soon and Kim Tae-bok, Taiwan's Hong Chia-yuh, Japan's Katsuhiko Yamazaki and Australian David Gleeson in the Asian PGA Tour event.

Japanese star Shingo Katayama, paired with Choi, made a disappointing competitive debut on Korean soil when he was forced to retire after five holes, feeling unwell.

The other member of their group, American Corey Pavin, made a solid start with a 67.

Choi, better known as "KJ," became the first player from his country to win on the US PGA Tour last year when he triumphed in the Compaq Classic of New Orleans. Later in the season he tasted victory in the Tampa Bay Classic. *AFP*

cosmopolitan

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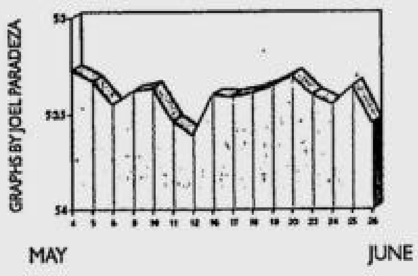


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

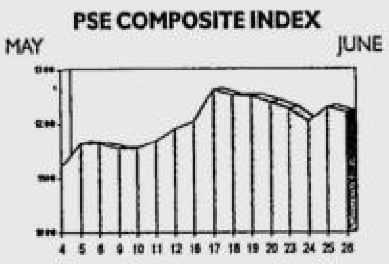
P 53.55 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 26, 2003

¥ 118.22 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 26, 2003

GOLD: $347.30-347.80
per ounce Hong Kong, June 26, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks close lower



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 0.79 percent lower yesterday on profit-taking and in the wake of Wall Street's decline following the interest rate cut announced by the US Federal Reserve, dealers said.

They said the downturn was limited by gains in key blue-chip in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), which breached resistance at P540.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 9.73 points to 1,221.91, having traded between 1,220.48 and 1,238.04.

Turnover fell to 470.43 million shares but value rose to P637.89 million from 679.7 million shares worth P592.41 million on Wednesday.

"The market was still in an oversold condition; that's why we still saw some profit-taking in select blue chips," said Harry Liu of Summit Securities.

"The market's reaction to the US Fed cut was in line with Wall Street's. If it were a 50-basis point cut, the (Philippine) central bank would have much more leeway to ease its monetary policy, possibly through a rate cut also," added Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

PLDT was the top traded stock, up P20 at P555.

Globe Telecom tracked PLDT, closing P5 higher at P610. Manila Electric Co. "B" shares shed 25 centavos at P14.75 while its "A" shares were unchanged at P10.25. *AFP*

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CASH-STRAPPED National Power Corp. (Napocor) has pulled out its $500-million, 10-year bond offering following a lukewarm reception from foreign investors.

Investment bankers yesterday said that Napocor was getting ready to scrap the offering due to high yields demanded by investors, but Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said it would be better to await indicative pricing from the US market by Thursday night (Manila time).

Napocor and its underwriter, Citigroup, are expected to make an official announcement on whether or not to proceed with the offering today.

But Camacho said that even if Napocor were to pull out the offering, the government itself could undertake the borrowing.

"The market does not fully appreciate that the Napocor risk carries sovereign guarantee," Camacho said.

Asked about the government's fallback, he said: "We can do a (Republic of the Philippines) bond offering for relending to Napocor like what we've done in the past. It's not our preferred approach but if the (interest rate) differential is wide, that's the most cost-effective."

Camacho assured that even if the goverment would borrow for Napocor, its own commercial requirements would not be compromised.

"It's not a borrowing on top of. It's a borrowing in place of," he said.

The national government is also thinking of alternative fund-raising schemes for the state-owned power firm.

Investment bankers said the market was demanding a spread of 75-100 basis points over ROP-13 (13-year Philippine sovereign issue), much higher than the 50 basis points that the government was willing to pay for the 10-year Napocor offering. The international roadshow for the Napocor float had been going on during the past few days.

A banker based in Manila explained that one of the reasons why the market did not appreciate the sovereign guarantee on the Napocor offering was due to the bleak outlook on the power firm's balance sheet.

"There's a lot of negative news on Napocor," the banker said. "Also, Napocor bonds in the past have been illiquid, so the market is gravitating towards more liquid offerings.

The banker also noted that there was little appetite not only for new Philippine debt issues because of "indigestion" from a recent string of global bond offerings by various sovereign and corporate issuers.

Napocor needs to raise about $1.2 billion this year to cover maturing debt and other financing obligations.

The country's biggest power producer has so far secured about $200 million of its requirement.

Gov't sees ₱14B in savings from review of ODA projects

BONCODIN

THE GOVERNMENT expects to save as much as P12.74 billion over the next five years following the review of 104 projects under its official development assistance (ODA) portfolio, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said.

In a presentation in Malacañang on Wednesday, Boncodin recommended to the executive committee of the National Economic and Development Authority the termination of six projects, scaling down of 10 others, and the deferment of another 15.

Four were proposed to be funded from other financing sources outside of the ODA portfolio.

Sixty-nine or majority of the 104 projects put under review were still allowed to proceed as programmed, she noted.

Boncodin, who made the recommendation on behalf of the Development Budget Coordination Committee-Investments Coordinating Committee, said the Neda executive committee had approved the rationalization program to "improve the performance of ODA-funded projects and ensure the sustainability of high-priority projects of various agencies."

Canceled due to excess financing were the fisheries resource project; the Cordillera highland agricultural resources management project; the forestry sector venture; the third elementary education project, the LOGOFind, and the rural water supply sanitation sector project.

Among the projects cited as slow-moving and in need of restructuring was the Follow on Search and Rescue Vessels' third airport development project.

Of the total cash to be freed from the rationalization program, P1 billion is expected to be realized as savings this year and P2.1 billion next year.

The 104 ODA projects reviewed were originally scheduled for implementation between 2003 and 2010, representing net commitments of $7.24 billion.

Of the total commitments, about $5.46 billion remained undisbursed.

If the government were to stick to original loan structures, it would have to shell out P378.5 billion or about P75 billion each year over the next five years.

In a separate interview, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the rationalization was needed to make the ODA portfolio cost-effective.

"The social benefits must exceed the value of the debt," he said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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CAB urged to resume air talks with South Korea

By Abigail L. Ho

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Romulo Neri reiterated to the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Department of Transportation and Communications that the recently shelved air talks with South Korea should push through at the soonest possible time, especially since President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had given specific orders to do so.

In his response to a letter from Cebu Visitors and Convention Bureau (CVCB) chair Patrick Gregorio, Neri said he had already talked with CAB executive director Tomas Mañalac about the concerns raised by different tourism-oriented groups regarding the postponement of the Korea air talks.

"I have personally talked to (Mañalac) to air your concerns. The increase in air frequencies with South Korea was part of the President's instructions to the DOTC officials (during the National Economic and Development Authority executive committee meeting on Jan. 21, 2003) as part of her program to boost Philippine tourism," Neri said. "We trust that the CAB will comply with the President's instructions."

In an interview with the INQUIRER's business staff Wednesday evening, Neri further related that he had talked with Transportation Secretary and concurrent CAB Chair Leandro Mendoza, from whom he got a promise that a new schedule for the air talks would be set before the quarter ended.

Air talks with South Korea for additional Manila-Seoul flight entitlements originally slated for June 18 were pushed back to the fourth quarter allegedly because of the lingering effects of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak on the aviation industry.

However, the CVCB questioned the postponement of the talks, saying this would "hamper the objectives of CVCB to bring more tourists to Cebu, particularly from Asian countries."

Neri himself pointed out that Korean tourists were usually the most unaffected by perceived travel risks as they still traveled despite potential dangers.

Data from the Department of Tourism's Region 7 office showed that the number of Korean visitors to Cebu grew by more than 23 percent to 21,894 in January to April from 17,778 during the same period last year.

The SARS scare hit Asia in late March, in-

CAB/ B3

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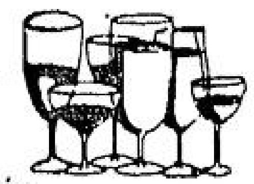
COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

THE 400-PLUS art collection of the late food critic Doreen Fernandez and her late husband has been bequeathed to (gasp!) La Salle, instead of Ateneo where Fernandez was long-time dean of the communications department.

Friends of the Fernandezes, many from Ateneo, could not believe the turn of events as they marked the first death anniversary of the late food critic at the Dasmariñas Village clubhouse Wednesday night.

According to the grapevine, the Fernandezes' estate administrator, Brother Gabby Besa, a nephew of Doreen, had been alarmed to discover that about 20 prints of artist Bencab that his late aunt had earlier donated to the Loyola campus could not all be accounted for.

This discovery was apparently what triggered Besa to cross over to Taft and hand the substantial Fernandez collection to De La Salle University.

It also did not help that Besa himself was an ex-Jesuit scholastic who left the order, reportedly after a falling out with his Jesuit superiors, to subsequently become a La Sallite brother.

Swiss challenge

THE SWISS are said to be parsimonious people, but apparently not their expatriates at Pasar, the local copper smelter plant.

The Swiss principals of Pasar, represented by the Glencore trading conglomerate, are still maintaining two floors within the Linden Suites in Ortigas despite having transferred the Pasar offices to the nearby Orient Square condominium since February.

According to the grapevine, Pasar is still paying Linden Suites nearly P259,000 a month, plus annual escalation, until December 2005 when its lease shall expire.

Linden Suites is, incidentally, controlled by former Agriculture Secretary Carlos Dominguez, who left Pasar as chair after the Swiss principals decided to transform the Philippine copper smelting plant from a profit center into a mere "production unit" of Glencore.

Dominguez, incidentally, has been in Portland, Oregon, for some time now, where his family has a second home and where his kids go to school.

Big Boy gone good

HENRY "Big Boy" Sy Jr. sent word to say that the cockfight derby at the former jai alai fronton in Harrison Plaza was held only as part of the recent Araw ng Maynila festivities and that the long-unused fronton has not altogether been transformed into a cockpit, as was reported here on Wednesday.

Big Boy has made it known that he had divested of his shareholdings in the fronton, apparently because he has recently turned "born again."

In addition, there is apparently also some pressure from "Tatang," his taipan father, who frowns on such games-of-chance investments.

Intelligencer

- ABS-CBN's Gabby Lopez and Destiny Cable's David Lim met again yesterday to explore a possible alliance.
- BESIDES PLDT's Antonio "TonyBoy" Cojuangco Jr., there are at least two groups that have expressed interest in acquiring majority control of BusinessWorld. TonyBoy already quietly controls Newsbreak, the weekly newsmagazine staffed by BusinessWorld/BusinessDay veterans.

Heard through the grapevine

PALAWAN Gov. Joel Reyes is scheduled to meet President Macapagal-Arroyo and Energy Secretary Vincent Perez in Malacañang tomorrow afternoon to discuss a mutually acceptable revenue-sharing formula on the multibillion-peso proceeds from the Malampaya natural gas field.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

CAB urged to resume air talks

From page B2

tensifying the following month as more cases of the fatal disease were reported. This made most people think twice about traveling for fear of contracting the dreaded disease. Despite this, the Koreans remained Cebu's top visitors.

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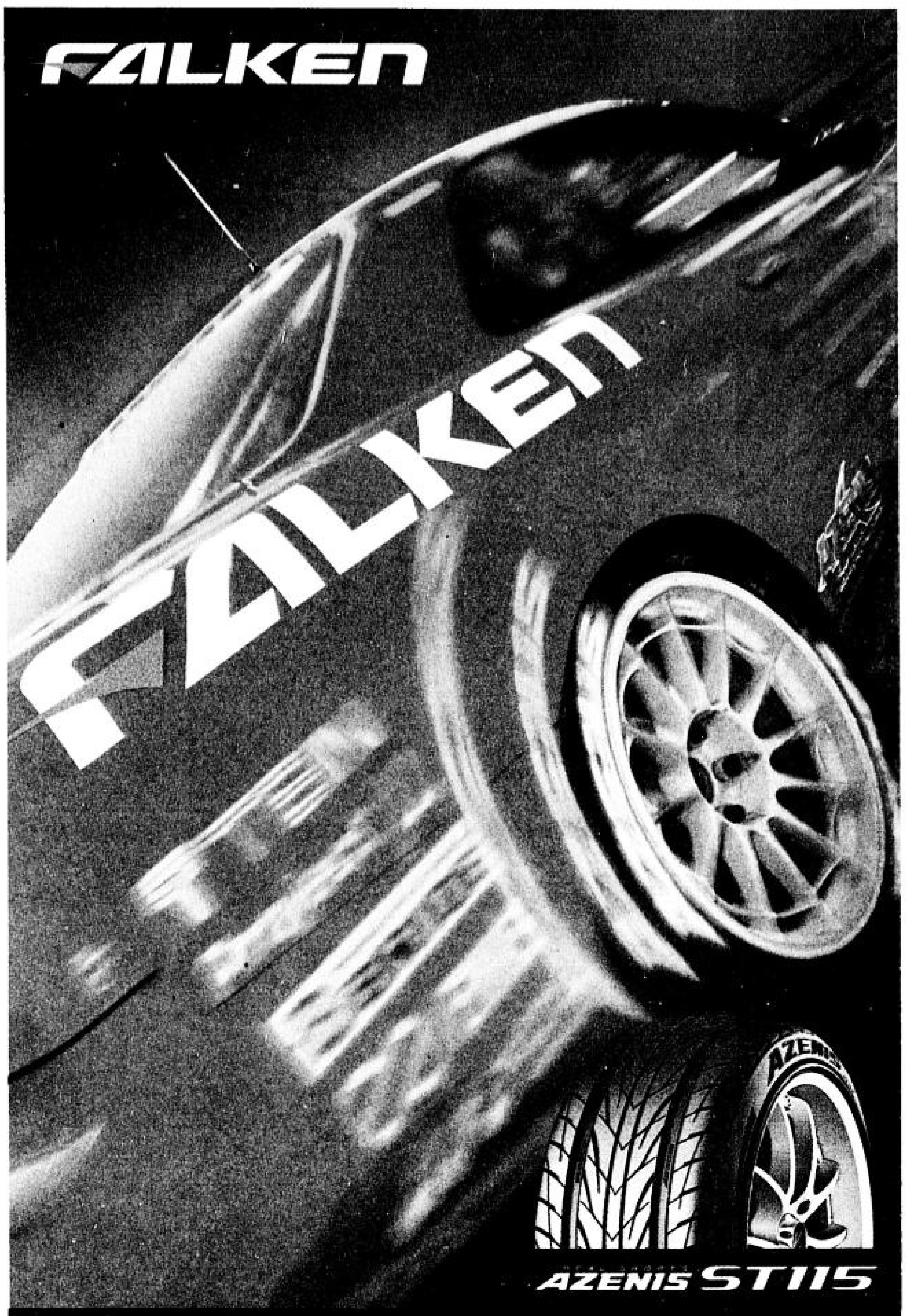

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Fil-Estate-BCDA talks bog down

BAGUIO CITY—Don't make us pay for Edsa Dos.

That's what Fil-Estate chair Robert John Sobrepeña Jr. told the Bases Conversion Development Authority after the government and the developers of Camp John Hay again failed to agree on a repayment package for the firm's P1-billion debt for the use of the former American base.

In a June 27 letter to BCDA president Rufo Colayco and BCDA chair Florencio Padernal, Sobrepeña questioned BCDA's assertion that the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevCo) should pay a P45-million interest cover for the period it took them to negotiate a debt settlement.

Sobrepeña said the government wanted CJHDevCo to pay for the delay in the negotiation that was caused by the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada, as well as the resulting Edsa II and III, and the deterioration of the economy in 2001.

Government sources said the BCDA had initially asked for a P100-million interest payment, on the strength of a June 16 opinion issued by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

The OGCC suggested that the developer should pay interest for the whole negotiation period.

The CJHDevCo and BCDA had scheduled for March 1 the approval of a memorandum of agreement that listed a set of commitments that obligated to the government all the revenue proceeds of several John Hay real estate projects.

"Next year, CJHDevCo will be working for BCDA because all the revenues it makes will immediately be turned over to the government," Gina Alvarez, CJHDevCo lawyer, said.

The MOA was drafted in July 2000, but it underwent several revisions.

"The March 4, 2003 signing did not push through for reasons not attributable to CJHDevCo ... In the interest of justice and fairness, it is CJHDevCo's position that it should not be made to bear the burden of any additional interest computation on the lease payments due for 1999 to 2002," Sobrepeña wrote.

His letter did not signal a confrontation between the developer and BCDA, which threatened early this year to terminate the lucrative John Hay lease, Alvarez said.

"We met on Tuesday and it ended on a positive note. We feel we can overcome this problem, because this is small, trivial matter compared to the bigger issues raised (regarding our debt settlement)," she told the INQUIRER.

CJHDevCo had not been paying rent after it released on 1998 P145 million to cover for its first year of work at the former American baseland.

The firm, which is owned by a Fil-Estate-led consortium, began negotiating for new rent terms with BCDA in 1999, claiming losses from the 1997 Asian currency crisis, Padernal said in an earlier interview.

Sobrepeña, who is CJHDevCo president, told the INQUIRER in an interview in 2002 that he offered to negotiate the debts during the Estrada administration, but the government had paused to address Estrada's ouster and President Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption into office.

He resumed talks with the Macapagal administration, only to stumble this year over assertions about interest payments.

Alvarez said CJHDevCo had been open to an interest cap, "but not P45 million, which is roughly the company's payroll figure for the next two years."

According to Sobrepeña, both parties "deliberately computed interests for lease payments for 1999 and 2000 only up to Aug. 31, 2001."

He said the first MOA draft was ready for approval by the Office of the President, only to be stymied by an OGCC opinion seeking clearance first from the Commission on Audit. The OGCC eventually reversed itself, but only after it delayed the talks by a year. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Stability boosts PLDT, FirstPac share prices

THE EXPECTED strong financial performance of PLDT for 2003, the solid support given by the Salim Group to the leadership of Manuel V. Pangilinan, and a viable strategy for growth have driven the share price of PLDT and First Pacific higher these past few weeks.

PLDT shares have increased from a low of about P230 to current levels of over P540. First Pacific shares have shot up to over $1.30 from a low of 79 cents at the height of the Gokongwei takeover attempt last year.

Financial analysts attribute the sharp climb to PLDT's sterling first quarter performance, and the recent appointment of Pangilinan as First Pacific group CEO, that put an end to the management conflict within First Pacific and was viewed as a strong vote of confidence by the Salim Group on Pangilinan.

"First Pacific is now a united company, with a focused vision, a single driver, and two strong core assets, namely PLDT and Indofoods," said an analyst.

First Pacific's rising stock price "indicates that we are in the right direction and that the investing public is taking another look at us," Pangilinan said. "We are committed to working harder with the First Pacific team to grow the company for our shareholders and the public we serve," he added.

PLDT's performance in the bourse augurs well for the regional strategy being mapped out by First Pacific. According to Pangilinan, the long term strategy involves building around the two core assets of First Pacific: PLDT and Indofoods.

SUN-NEXT MOBILE INTERCONNECTION
Mel Velarde, president and CEO of Next Mobile, and Digitel president Lance Gokongwei signed the voice interconnection agreement that will allow IMX (Next Mobile's brand name) and Sun Cellular subscribers to call each other. Sun Cellular was launched recently. Velarde and Gokongwei also agreed to sign the text interconnection agreement soon.

Effective extension maximizes limited budget

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

AT A RECENT seminar in Cebu City, Dean Bernardo Villegas of the University of Asia and the Pacific, said "Agriculture, aside from information technology, will save the country from the economic crisis it has been experiencing since 1997. We will recover our lost glory if the government will support the country's farmers through logistics and financial means. It is about time the government shifts its support to agriculture which has been neglected for years because of its prioritizing white elephant projects such as the National Steel Corp."

Extension

Unfortunately, although the Department of Agriculture (DA) had submitted a significantly higher budget for 2003 as compared with the 2002 figure, Congress allocated the DA a smaller budget this year. Nevertheless, agriculture development should not primarily rely on the DA's budget. More important are the creative skills of the provincial, city and municipal agricultural extension workers under the leadership of the governors and mayors, and the DA's support. This was proven when, despite a budget cut of more than P100 million from the rice program, the extension workers helped the farmers to more than double their use of certified palay seeds from 700,000 to 1.5 million hectares in 2001 alone. This was a very significant achievement, considering that the area planted to certified seeds remained stagnant at 300,000 hectares from 1986 to 1999, when the skills of the extension workers were not adequately utilized.

A conclusion is that the proper harnessing of the extension workers' skills can contribute significantly to agricultural development, even with a limited budget.

Many of the 17,000 devolved agricultural extension workers reported that they had less extension work training because they had been separated from the DA. For 2001 and 2002, three-day live-in seminars were done for each province to help address this problem. Before that, there was no national extension work model to follow. The model presented during those seminars should be in a constant state of improvement. The DA Region 2 office under the leadership of Regional Executive Director Gomer Lasam has shown a successful example that is worth duplicating. Another is the *Dapitsaka*model that was presented last June 19 in Palo, Leyte, at the Annual National Convention of the Philippine Association of City and Provincial Agriculturists (Pacpa).

Dapitsaka

This model was explained by Julian Lapitan, a former DA employee who is currently with the International Rice Research Institute (Irri). According to him, *Dapitsaka* comes from *Dapitay sa Kaumhan*, which means "holding on together for the farm." It captures the essential ingredient that spelled success for the project: the teamwork of all the stakeholders in agricultural development.

The project started when then Iloilo Gov. (now Congressman) Arthur Defensor addressed the serious *tungro* and rat problem in his province. Participating in this effort were Irri, DA, the Philippine Rice Institute, the Department of Science and Technology, the Process Foundation and other government and private institutions. With the *Dapitsaka* spirit, the results were impressive. According to Mr. Lapitan, 2000 hectares were saved from the potential loss of 160,000 cavans of palay. At a very conservative price of P7/kilo, the benefit of the *Dapitsaka* model amounted to P56 million.

Framework

The *Dapitsaka* framework has three critical elements: content, delivery process and local knowledge. Essential to this is the participatory method used so that the stakeholders, instead of the support organizations, determine the final actions and feel they "own" the project.

In this framework, the right content of the extension work must be determined. The problem should be identified properly and the viable alternative solutions offered. However, even if this is done well, many projects fail because they do not address the two remaining elements of delivery process and local knowledge.

The delivery process includes choosing the proper people to lead the project, the strategic accessible demonstration pilot areas, the availability of the proper seeds and materials and the effective dissemination of information through field days and media coverage.

Local knowledge is when the farmers in their own localities improve on the content transmitted in the delivery process. This way, the extension is not only more suited to the locality, it also has the involvement and commitment of the farmers.

Conclusion

When I called Dr. Lapitan on the phone earlier this week, he was in Cambodia sharing the secrets of extension work success with the Cambodians. It is suggested that Filipinos who are abroad teaching and training other nationalities on agriculture extension work be harnessed to improve the preliminary national guide model for extension work. This way, experiences like that of *Dapitsaka* can be replicated effectively in our own country.

Meanwhile, the content-delivery process-local knowledge framework can be a helpful aid in improving extension work execution. Dr. Villegas is right: more logistics and finances are needed by agriculture. But while these are lacking, more emphasis should be given to effective extension work. For this can contribute very significantly to our agricultural development, as the *Dapitsaka* experience has clearly demonstrated.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former Undersecretary of DA and DTI and chair/Secretary of Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatch@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

RCBC projecting 6-month profit of ₱1B

By Elena R. Torrijos

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp., a universal bank owned largely by the Yuchengco family, is expecting to end the first semester of the year with around P1 billion in net income, bank officials said.

In a briefing yesterday, RCBC corporate vice chair and acting chief executive Cesar Virata expressed confidence that the bank would beat last year's P1.389 billion profit performance.

"We are doing much better than last year," he said.

Profit was buoyed mainly by interest income and gains from securities trading.

Virata said the bank would also set aside more than P1 billion in loan loss provision this year.

Also, RCBC officials disclosed that the bank's ongoing P4.5-billion tier-two capital notes offering was getting warm reception from the market.

The capital issue is composed of unsecured subordinated notes due in 2013 but callable after five years.

RCBC executive vice president Jaime Panganiban said the bank's target market was mainly individuals and tax-exempt entities.

"Indications so far are very positive. We have inquiries from portfolio managers and one big institution is already asking for allocation," Panganiban said.

The P4.5-billion tier-two notes offering would help RCBC boost its capital adequacy ratio by two percentage points to around 15 percent from its existing 13 percent.

It will be sold in denominations of P500,000 and will be issued on July 7.

INTEREST RATES

June 26, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 26-Jun-03	MART1 25-Jun-03
1 Month	6.6036	6.5135
3 Months	6.6256	6.5771
6 Months	7.1596	7.1229
1 Year	7.6518	7.6423
2 Years	8.5067	8.4423
3 Years	9.52	9.4538
4 Years	10.015	9.9885
5 Years	10.4733	10.3981
7 Years	11.2217	11.2289
10 Years	11.5417	11.4538
20 Years	11.9933	11.9885
25 Years	12.41	12.4019

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 26, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	19	18.25	19	109,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47	45	45.5	1,081,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	33.5	32	32	161,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	30.5	29.5	29.5	568,500
Philippine National Bank	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.5	48,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	10,100
Security Bank Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	21,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	2,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	114,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1455	1455	1455	1455?	1,040
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	60,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1070	1060	1060	560
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19	19.25	19	19	47,300
Diversified Fin. Network	2.5	3.6	2.5	3.6	677,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.74	0.74	2,960,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	610	615	605	610	89,730
Ipeople Inc.	0.79	0.8	0.79	0.8	150,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.044	0.043	0.043	4,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	14,900,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.43	0.46	0.43	0.43	4,670,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	530	560	530	555	438,580
Ivantage Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	580,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	5,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10.25	10.75	10	10.25	1,008,800
Manila Electric Co. B	15.25	15.25	14.75	14.75	2,723,200
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.02	4,423,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	445,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	390,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	240,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.75	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	19,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	20,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.6	17.25	17.25	110,500
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	150,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	80,200
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	62.5	62.5	70,200
Universal Robina Corp.	5	5.4	5	5.3	209,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.75	4.8	4,688,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.38	2.38	2.36	2.38	933,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	4,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.63	0.63	50,000
APC Group Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.1	0.105	400,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.62	0.56	0.59	31,920,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	310,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.23	0.23	5,070,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13.25	13.75	13	13	1,077,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.085	0.085	600,000
Ionics Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.8	0.8	530,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	499,000
Keppel Holdings	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	362,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	90,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.74	850,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.31	0.27	0.29	41,700,000
Music Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.31	0.31	6,500,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	900,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	20,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.28	7,710,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	60,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	20,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	50,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	21,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.0625	0.0625	900,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	70,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.55	4,730,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	230,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	140,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,330,000
BONDS, PREFFERED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.25	167,500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	35,000,000
WGA - Preferred	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	550	550	550	550	10
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6.1	5.9	5.9	7,424,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	200,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	1,850,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.17	0.17	1,800,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.215	0.225	23,480,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	0.99	1	13,720,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.145	3,080,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	3,280,000
Primex Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	72,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	524,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.8	5.9	4,689,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.004	0.0034	0.0036	126,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	340,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	240,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	59,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	100,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	1,000,000

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of Picop Resources Inc. were Leonardo Siguion-Reyna, Joost Pekelharing, Teodoro Bernardino, Eleanore Gutierrez, Roberto Atendido, Michael Bernardino, Ramon Montano, Pedrito Aragon, Juanito Figueroa, Cornelio Mapa and Celso Vivas.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Belle Corp. were Ramon Ang, Fulgencio Factoran, Antonio Henson, Jacinto Ng Jr., Hans Sy, Rogelio Cabunag, Benito Tan Guat, Gregorio Kilayko, Willy Ocier, Washington Sycip and Cesar Virata.

* * *

ELECTED directors of F & J Prince Holdings Corp. were Amparo Barcelon, Emeterio Barcelon, Johnson Co, Homer Cokeng Jr., Francisco Cokeng Jr., Robert Cokeng, Manuel Dy, Francis Chua, Johnson Tan Gui Yee, Rufino Tiangco and Robert Ynson.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Chinatrust (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp. were Jeffrey Koo, Thomas Chen, William Go, Joey Bermudez, Jerry Harn, Peter Liu, Yung Fang Yang and Edwin Villanueva.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc. were Erdogan Pekeng, Arlene De Guzman, Pierre Deleplanque, Andres Sta. Maria, Bryan Cockrell, Renato Sunico, Wigberto Tañada, Jaime Gonzalez and Benito Araneta. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 26, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.866026	1.000000	53.373000
Japan	Yen	0.007342	0.008478	0.452500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.448861	1.673000	89.293000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111056	0.128236	6.844300
Switzerland	Franc	0.652472	0.753409	40.211700
Canada	Dollar	0.644029	0.743660	39.691400
Singapore	Dollar	0.498289	0.575374	30.709400
Australia	Dollar	0.581031	0.670916	35.808800
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.297273	2.652661	141.580500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.230934	0.266660	14.232400
Brunei	Dollar	0.496859	0.573723	30.621300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020883	0.024114	1.287000
UAE	Dirham	0.235788	0.272264	14.531500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.154700	61.629800
Argentina	Peso	0.314347	0.362976	19.373100
Brazil	Real	0.303337	0.350263	18.694600
Denmark	Kroner	0.134656	0.155487	8.298800
India	Rupee	0.018633	0.021515	1.148300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.227932	0.263193	14.047400
Mexico	New Peso	0.082660	0.095447	5.094300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.508709	0.587406	31.351600
Norway	Kroner	0.120801	0.139489	7.444900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014975	0.017292	0.922900
South Africa	Rand	0.112911	0.130378	6.958700
Korea	Won	0.000730	0.000843	0.045000
Sweden	Kroner	0.109191	0.126083	6.729400

Taiwan firm to put up logistics hub in Subic

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Wistron Infocomm. Phils., a Taiwanese firm manufacturing Acer computer products, has set up its global logistic hub here to cope with the growing demand for electronic products worldwide.

Wistron managing director Robin Wang forged a partnership with Singapore-based logistic support provider, Global Air Freight represented by deputy chair William Cheng, for the setting up of a warehouse hub inside the three-hectare manufacturing facility of Wistron at the Subic Bay Industrial Park.

"After several months of experimentation and testing, Wistron was able to come up with an improved system by creating a global networking team for a more efficient access to our suppliers without delays because of advance stockpiling scheme and well-organized warehousing management system," Wang said.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo said Wistron, the biggest single employer in the freeport with more than 3,000 workers, has shown concerns in the current marketing trend of "just-in-time" inventories.

"Velocity is the name of the game to be able to survive in the highly competitive global market, and Wistron is taking this attitude earnestly," Payumo said after witnessing the signing of the memorandum of agreement between Wistron and Global.

Cheng said Global's local affiliate, Airlift Asia, will handle the warehousing management, including catalog markings and stockpiling while Global will be involved in outsourcing various suppliers of computer parts needed by Wistron. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

EU imposes temporary ban on RP prawns, bangus

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE EUROPEAN Commission has issued a temporary ban on Philippine aquaculture exports due to the insufficiency of reports from the agriculture officials that will prove that the products were free of contaminants and harmful substances.

European Commission Deputy Head of Delegation Luc Vandebon, in a statement, said the EC had imposed the ban because the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, an agency of the Department of Agriculture, failed to submit all the documents required for inclusion in the list of countries that comply with the Council Directive.

"The EC's decision stemmed from the insufficient guarantees in the area of residue monitoring," Vandebon said.

The residue monitoring plan for aquaculture products is required by the EC to ensure that prawns, milkfish and tilapia being exported by the Philippines are free from harmful substances and residues. BFAR was tasked to perform the monitoring.

Agriculture Undersecretary for Fisheries and Livestock Cesar M. Drilon Jr. said in an interview yesterday that the EC's move should not be a cause for alarm. He said the agriculture department and BFAR would just have to prepare a plan that would satisfy the EC's requirements.

Drilon said Agriculture Attaché to EC Ana B. Abejuel and BFAR director Malcolm Sarmiento discussed the issue with the administrator of the EC directorate-general in a meeting in Brussels last week.

The country was required by the EC to come up with another residue monitoring plan after the plan submitted was found insufficient.

Drilon added that the temporary ban was not expected to disrupt the scheduled shipment of some $315,000 worth of aquaculture products to Hamburg and Rotterdam.

However, the ban is feared to affect a shipment of prawns worth $136,000 which is due to arrive in the Netherlands on June 30.

In a worst case scenario, the DA official said the ban would be enforced for one month. This, he said, was not expected to result in a big loss for the local aquaculture industry.

The Philippines exports $10.2 million worth of prawns, milkfish and tilapia to the European Union yearly, which is 24 percent of the $43 million worth of marine products exported to the region every year.

Improved incentives package for electronics firms sought

By Michelle V. Remo

LOCAL electronics exporters are demanding an extension of the six-year income tax holiday granted to locators at the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, saying the industry is bleeding from the competition in the world market.

They say the country's incentive package for investors in the electronics industry compares poorly with that of other countries, especially China, which has become the biggest threat to other electronic-exporting countries.

According to Dan Lachica, director of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries Philippines Inc. (Seipi) and president of First Sumiden Circuits Inc., the government should improve the country's incentives package since it is becoming unattractive for new investments and could eventually force current investors to consider locating somewhere else.

He said China offers investors an indefinite income tax holiday and even provides free land for some locators. "China's tax incentives are much more attractive. Knowing that the income tax holiday granted here is only for a short term, companies tend to choose to locate in other countries," Lachica said.

He said First Sumiden was negotiating with the government for the extension of the effectivity of its income tax holiday, which is due to end within the year. "If nothing comes out (of the negotiation) I can't guarantee it (likelihood of locating in another country) would not be a subject of discussion," said Lachica.

He said that with the industry's estimated 69 percent contribution to the country's export revenue, the government should seriously consider increasing its assistance to the industry to make it more competitive with other electronics exporting countries.

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RP mobile phone users seen to hit 20M by Dec.

MOBILE phone subscribers in the Philippines are expected to grow to 20 million by the end of the year, up from the present level of 18 million, the National Telecommunications Commission said yesterday.

"By Christmas, the industry expects total subscribers to reach 20 million," NTC deputy commissioner Jorge Sarmiento told an industry gathering.

Smart Communications Inc., a unit of telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., is the leading mobile phone firm, accounting for over 10 million subscribers, followed by Globe Telecom with seven million.

The rest are accounted for by fringe mobile phone service providers, he said. *AFP*

The Search for
The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) 2003

Philippine Jaycees Inc. Equitable PCI PLDT TOYM Foundation, Inc. Gerry Roxas Foundation PHINMA Inquirer

TOYM HIGHLIGHTS

Deadline for the submission of Nomination Forms is on July 31, 2003 at the JCP Headquarters 14 Don Alejandro Roces Avenue, Quezon City. (Tel. Nos. 373-7907 to 09)
Website: www.toym.org

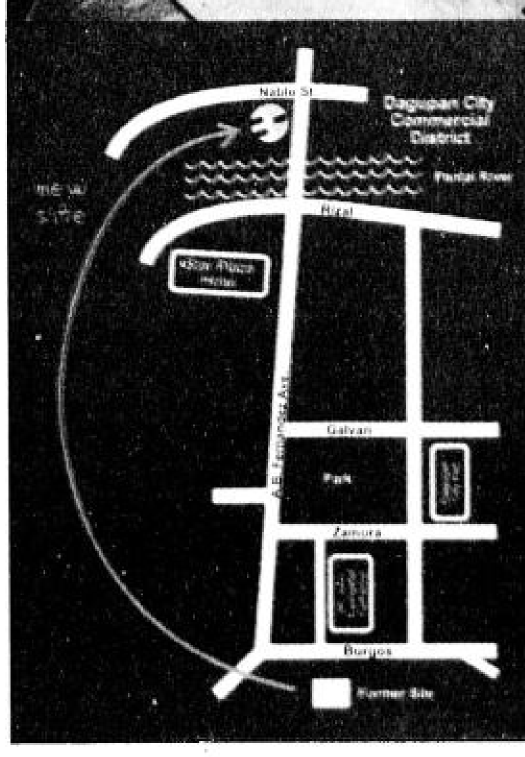
Question: What do Ninoy Aquino, Lea Salonga, Onyok Velasco, Sen. Loren Legarda, Gary Valenciano, Jessica Soho, Liza Macuja-Elizalde, Manny Pangilinan, Sec. Dong Puno, Alejandro Roces and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Lance Gokongwei, Butch Jimenez have in common?

Answer: They were all past winners of the TOYM, the nation's most prestigious and most coveted awards for young Filipino achievers, aged 18 to 40. For more than forty years now, The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Awards, a symbol of good citizenship and social commitment, has given honor and recognition to young individuals who have made a significant impact and difference in the lives of Filipinos and the entire nation. Pioneered by Amb. Howard Q. Dee, then of the Manila Jaycees in 1959, and later, adopted as a national project of the Philippine Jaycees in 1960, the TOYM was initiated to give distinction to outstanding young men for their significant contributions to their fields of endeavor, to their community and to the nation.

As the TOYM celebrates its forty fifth year in 2003, the Awards Search has truly become an institution, having honored no less than three hundred and sixty-eight leaders and achievers, as well as having successfully inspired other young Filipinos to excel in their fields of endeavor. But more than this, it has become an icon, a veritable representation of what is the best in the Filipino and the spirit of "service to humanity." This year's TOYM Search is made possible by the efforts of the Philippine Jaycees, Inc. The TOYM Foundation, Inc., the Gerry Roxas Foundation, the Equitable-PCI Bank, PLDT, Philippine Daily Inquirer, and PHINMA. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.toym.org or contact your local Jaycees Chapter or Phil. Jaycees HQ.

By: Reginald T. Yu, (Manila Jaycees Inc.)

Kabuasan ed sikayo!



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Intensity G paints Pintados Festival blazing blue and white

Pintados
Kasadyaan
festival
2003

GLOBE'S blue and white standard permeates the array of myriad hues in this year's Pintados Festival, a cultural showcase held every last week of June in Tacloban City to pay tribute to the Waray's colorful warrior past.

As telecommunications presenter of this year's Pintados, Globe joins local Taclobanons as they celebrate major festival events such as the Pintados Kasadyaan Parade on June 28 and the Pintados Grand Parade on June 29. This will be the fiesta highlight for which Globe will be fielding in its own contingent.

Apart from these festival events, Globe starts partying with Tacloban on June 27, via the Gentxt-sponsored "Bounce," an R&B and hip-hop dance party at Leyte Park Hotel Gym co-presented with Jag Jeans. From June 27 to 28, Globe raids the hippest bars in town, Shindig Bar and Sanctum Disco, to groove all night long with the city's trendiest party aficionados.

Come June 29, expect to see July, Globe's popular Hi-Memory SIM endorser, as he leads the Intensity G Motorcade through Tacloban's city streets. You can also catch July in local radio stations and Intensity G sales booths throughout the city where you can get the best cell phone deals in town.

According to Buda Concio; head for Globe prepaid marketing, "Globe's major presence in this year's Pintados Festival is an affirmation of our long-standing commitment to bring connectivity to the region. As we pay tribute to local tradition and culture, we are extremely happy to celebrate Pintados with our fiercely loyal Waray subscribers."

Get Globe-connected now and experience a colorful part of Philippine history and culture at Pintados.

UCPB high-yield Extreme Time Deposit

UCPB has launched a new long-term time deposit product that offers investors superior returns on their investment that are also tax-free and credited monthly to their savings or checking account.

Called the UCPB Extreme Time Deposit, the new product has a tenor of 61-months and offers high yield of up to 2 percent over the current 91 T-bill rates.

UCPB said that being a long-term instrument, the interest earnings from UCPB Extreme TD are tax-free. However, since the interest earnings are credited monthly to his account, the investor can immediately make full use of the earnings either to build up his savings or use for business or leisure.

In addition, the investor can use the UCPB extreme TD as collateral against a business or personal loan so that should an emergency or a profit opportunity arises, he can raise cash without pre-terminating the investment.

The minimum amount to open a UCPB extreme TD is only P100,000. The product is available in all UCPB branches nationwide.

UCPB said the investment is ideal for medium and big investors who are looking for an uncomplicated high-yield outlet that they do not have to closely monitor, for people who are saving up for a future need such as a child's college education, and for retirees.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard
Pasay City, 1308

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the deadline for the submission of bids/proposals to act as External Fund Managers to manage a portion of the funds of the **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS)** is extended up to **3:00 p.m. of Friday, July 11, 2003**.

Accordingly, the target dates for the activities pertaining to the bidding process shall be adjusted as follows:

a) Issuance of Terms of Reference (TOR)	**25 June - 02 July 2003**
b) Evaluation of Bids/Proposals	**15-16 July 2003**
c) Presentation of Qualified Bidders to the GSIS Investment Committee	**22-23 July 2003**
d) Awarding To Winning Bidders	**08 August 2003**

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any defect(s) or form(s) received and to accept the proposal deemed most beneficial to the System but does not guarantee that an award shall be made. The decision of the System shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **WINSTON F. GARCIA**
President and General Manager

(PDI - June 26, 27 & 28, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
MANILA

Invitation to Bid

The Supreme Court invites authorized Distributors/Dealers of branded Personal Computers to pre-qualify and participate in the lot bidding for the following:

A. 500 Units – Branded Personal Computers
B. 383 Units – Dot Matrix Printers
C. 120 Units – Laser Printer
D. 500 Units – Automatic Voltage Regulator

for distribution and delivery to:

Court	PC	Dot Matrix	Laser Printer	AVR
SC	229	112	120	229
RTC	18	18	0	18
MeTC	1	1	0	1
MTCC	24	24	0	24
MTC	101	101	0	101
MCTC	110	110	0	110
SHCC	1	1	0	1
Court Libraries	16	16	0	16
TOTAL	**500**	**383**	**120**	**500**

The approved budget is **FORTY TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE PESOS (P42,500,975.00)** to be chargeable against the Judiciary Development Fund

Prospective bidders may secure pre-qualification requirements and bid documents including the lists of recipient Courts and their locations from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, 4th Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila, after payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand (P1,000.00) pesos.

I. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All pre-qualification requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the authorized representatives on ***July 23, 2003 at exactly 2:00 p.m. at the 4th floor Multi-purpose Building.***

II. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference for pre-qualified bidders shall be on ***July 30, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the 4th Floor Multi-purpose Hall, Annex Building, SC.***

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives on ***Wednesday, August 6, 2003 at exactly 2:00 p.m., 4th Floor Multi-Purpose Hall, SC.***

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

June 25, 2003.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI – June 27 & July 4, 2003)

'KARTADA ALAS' ON THE '4 ACES'

Today at 11 p.m., 'Kartada Alas' issues and talking points will be about 'The Four Aces' (Efren 'Choy' Alas, DILG Undersecretaries Wency Andanar and Charlie Avila, and Dr. Edgie Ong) all out war against drugs with PDEA.' 'Kartada Alas' is produced by lawyer Francisco Raquel-Santos and Nixon Salimbangon of K-Line Media Exponent, in cooperation with IBC 13, presented by PCSO, DAR and Shopping Carnival at the World Trade Center, which would be held from Aug. 1 to 3. Shown standing, from left, are Raquel-Santos, host Ong, Dr. Carlito B. Cubelo, overall coordinator of the oversight committee on dangerous drugs, Andanar, and Avila of the National Council on Food Security and Jobs Creation. Seated, from left, are Asec and LTO Chief Ret. Gen. Roberto T. Lastimoso, Alma Concepcion, and host Alas, bank/financial advisor.

Running, and the Milo Marathon

THERE is no sport or exercise as simple and uncomplicated as running. Among the aerobic sports, it is the most "doable" since it does not require any specialized equipment or training. All you need is a comfortable pair of running shoes and clothes, and the determination to do it.

Running is inexpensive and easy to learn. After a normal, healthy child has learned to walk, he starts to run in no time at all. Thus, running is a natural physical activity. You can run at your own pace and on your own time-on a track oval, in the park, or in the proximity of your neighborhood. Running can be enjoyed alone, with a group of friends, or with the company of your dog. You can run simply for recreation, for fitness, or for competition. In short, running is so flexible that it can be enjoyed by people of all ages with different lifestyles.

The benefits of running, of course, impact on your health. By running regularly, you keep your body fit by regulating blood pressure, keeping blood vessels elastic and improving blood circulation, and helping prevent cardiovascular disease. Your heart becomes stronger and more efficient.

Running is an ideal sport for people who want to tone muscles, increase strength and stamina, and shed excess pounds. Not only conditioning muscles, especially in the legs, it also burns calories and helps control weight, and actually helps regulate your appetite in the long run.

RUNNING can be enjoyed alone or with friends-especially with man's best friend.

Having a good run of at least 20 minutes, according to conventional wisdom, gives you a sense of well-being. The nervous system releases a chemical known as beta-endorphin, which provides the upbeat feeling you experience after vigorous aerobic activity.

By running regularly, you develop a strong sense of self-discipline that extends into other parts of your life. You also self-reinforce other values like perseverance, patience, and literally going the extra mile, as your fitness increases. As what happens when participating in any sport, bad habits like smoking and staying up late are eventually discouraged.

One way to encourage yourself to take up running is to join a marathon and give yourself a goal. In the Philippines, running is synonymous to with the National Milo Marathon. A milestone event in local sports, the Milo Marathon gathers all kinds of runners, from beginners to 42K veterans, in 13 regional legs in the country to celebrate running. Anyone who has joined or witnessed the Milo Marathon knows that it has to be experienced personally to be fully appreciated. Since its first race in 1974, it has become the country's premier running event and a breeding ground of athletes for international competitions.

Now celebrating its 27th year, the Milo Marathon encourages participants from all walks of life to run and live healthy and wholesome lifestyles, emphasizing fitness and involvement in sports.

With over a total of P2 million in cash prizes to be given away, the National Milo Marathon kicked off in Naga City June 22. Other legs of the marathon will be held in Roxas City (June 29), Tuguegarao (July 6), Tacloban (July 13), Lipa (July 20), Metro Manila (July 27), Davao (August 3), Cagayan de Oro (Aug. 10), Olongapo (Aug. 17), Butuan (Aug. 24), Cebu (Aug. 31), Baguio (Sept. 7), and Gen. Santos (Sept. 14). The national finals will be staged in Metro Manila on Oct. 19. Milo partners with the Bayview Park Hotel Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, the Department of Tourism, MyGlobe, and PowerBar in presenting the 27th National Milo Marathon.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TASK FORCE ENGINEERING, ASSESSMENT & MONITORING
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB Number 2002-03-SEMP-DepED-BEFP — June 25, 2003
Project Title CY 2001 Social Expenditure Management Project 2 (SEMP 2) 10% Unallocated Portion — Loan No. 7118 PH
Contract Title : Construction of School Buildings for Public Elementary Schools in NCR, Region VII & XI

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for the Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to provide a budget support facility towards the financing of the Social Expenditure Management Project 2 (SEMP 2) in various currencies. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this facility will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the Basic Education Facilities Program (BEFP) to be implemented by the Department of Education (DepED).
2. The Department of Education (DepED) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Pasig City now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the bidding of the construction of school buildings located in the NCR, Regions VII and XI (separate packages).

	School	Scope of Works
a.	Digos Central Elem. School, Digos City / Reg. XI	Construction of 3 Storey, 15 Classroom School Building.
b.	Damong Maliit Elem. School, Q.C. / NCR	Partial Construction of 3 Storey, 9 Classroom School Building
c	Tabok 2 Elem. School, Mandaue City / Reg. VII	Construction of 3 Storey, 9 Classroom School Building

3. For purposes of this bid, eligible must have experience in works of a similar nature and complexity over the last five years.
4. Interested eligible bidders may acquire a complete set of bid documents starting June 26, 2003 upon submission of a letter of intent to: the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, Tel. No. 636-6543 for Damong Maliit ES, the DepED Regional Offices for Tabok 2 ES and Digos CES. A complete set of bid documents will be available for a non-refundable fee of: Php 3,000.00.
5. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of the Contract are provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents, Procurement of Works.
6. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of three (3%) percent of total bid price in the form of a bank guarantee; cashier's/manager's check or an irrevocable letter of credit.
7. Pre-Bid Conference and Bid Opening dates are as follows:

	School	Venue	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Opening
a.	Digos Central Elem. School	DepED Regional Office, Reg. XI	July 10, 2003, 2:00 PM	July 28, 2003 10:00 AM
b.	Damong Maliit Elem. School	DepED Central Office	July 14, 2003, 2:00 PM	August 1, 2003 10:00 AM
c.	Tabok 2 Elem. School	DepED Regional Office, Reg. VII	July 16, 2003 2:00 PM	August 8, 2003 10:00 AM

8. The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, or to annul the bidding process or reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to Bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

(PDI – June 27 & July 5, 2003)

Clips

Ultron Rallycross 3rd leg

IT'S A red letter day for racers on June 28 as the third round of the Petron Ultron Rallycross series kicks off at the CCP Complex, Pasay City. Expected to push the pedal to the metal are top contenders Ivan Isada of Team Ultron who is ahead of the pack with 20 points, closely followed by 10-time national rally champion Vip Isada of Team Blaze with 14 points. An exciting battle also awaits Kenneth Dominado and Carlo Gutang who are tied at third place with 9 points. 40 other competitors will also be expected to compete for championship points. Both novice and veteran rallycrossers are also encouraged to compete in the "Arrive and Drive" category. Registration starts at 8 a.m. The Ultron Rallycross Championship is organized by the AAA and sponsored by Ultron, Diesel Max, Blaze. Co-sponsors of the event are Gadgets Magazine, Motorista.com.ph, Auto Extreme, Nodalo's, ATI Racing and Roadwise Motoring School. The Ultron rallycross championship is sanctioned by the AAP.

ME weekend in Tagaytay

THE CHRIST the King at Nazareth (CKN) Series, or "The King's Series" of the Tuklasan Sector, Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines, is scheduled to sponsor a Marriage Encounter (ME) weekend from July 4 to 6 at the St. Bridget's Retreat Center, Tagaytay City. Spearheaded by Boy-Zaida Villarosa together with CKN Class 28, the weekend seminar is ideal for married couples seeking fulfillment and rejuvenation in their marriages. Serving in the Ecclesial Team are Rev. Fr. Jess V. Fernandez SJ, team priest, Henry-Arlene Canivel and Nick-Baby Aquino, team couples. For reservations, call Gas-Olive Gaac (417-7588, 417-4764), Leo-Sol Manzan (704-8020, 704-9529), Cesar-Mina Josue (736-0527), and Rudy-Carmel Ulanday (961-3957, 687-7051). Deadline for reservation is June 27. Seminar fee is P2,500 per couple for the 3-day weekend.

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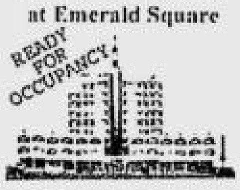

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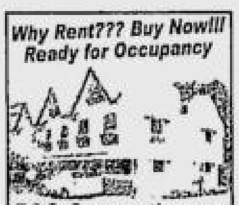

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2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 6567685

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

GARAGE SALE

VIDEOKE P25T 09173312287

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

VOLVO

1995 VOLVO 850 GLT ESTATE
Engine displacement: 2.5 liter, 5 cylinder, 20 valves, 170 bhp, 4-speed A/T, Color: Tropic Green. P900T

1996 VOLVO 850 GLE SEDAN
Engine displacement: 2.5 liter, 5 cylinder, 10 valves, 144 bhp, 4-speed A/T, Color: Polar White. P600T

1997 VOLVO 960 ESTATE
Engine displacement: 3.0 liter, 6 cylinder, 24 valves, 204 bhp, 4-speed A/T, Color: Olive Green. P800T

1996 VOLVO 850 GLE ESTATE
Engine displacement: 2.5 liter, 5 cylinder, 10 valves, 170 bhp, 4-speed A/T, Color: Tropic Green. P700T

1997 VOLVO S70 GLE SEDAN
Engine displacement, 2.5 liter, 5 cylinder, 10 valves, 144 bhp, 5-speed M/T, Color: Tropical Green P650T

1998 VOLVO V70 ESTATE
Engine displacement: 2.5 liter, 5 cylinder, 10 valves, 144 bhp, 4-speed A/T, Color: Regent Red. P950T

2002 VOLVO S60 SEDAN
Engine displacement: 2.0 liter, 5 cylinder, 20 valves, 180 bhp, 5-speed Adaptive A/T, Color: Cosmic Blue P1.9M.

Call Jax, Max, or Braggy,
7572947 / 0917 8469343 /
0917 8412112 /
0916 5485454,
Office hrs. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

RICOH XEROX COPIER 5500FP CLEAR COPY PWDER INK 7132419

OTHER EQUIPMENT

BNEW POWER CHAIR 110V US MADE 09205860204

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Acctg Clerk,w/exp in BIR/SSS filing to work in home ofc @Sucat,Pque P8T/mo T842-8143;0917-8436675

MAID YAYA LABA 7462906

PR WRITER w/exp.coll grad to work full time in home ofc @Sucat,Pque, comp.literate 8428143;09178436676

MALE/FEMALE

*DIRECT HIRE *
OFC MKTG STAFF START ASAP M/F 18-45 9950025 MS.KONICA

DIRECT HIRE MKTG PERSONNEL 18-45 COLL GRAD/LEVEL W/ W/O EXP 4370454 BRANDY

DIRECT HIRE MKTG STAFF 18-45 YO 2527448 MR. JACOB

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING 5280730 589-9958

JOB FAIR 09167054572 ECHO

LIC. VETERINARIAN
Sn Fdo Pamp Vet Clinic
Call: 045-8602284 /
(0920)909-5970

Mktg Person'l 09192535623 Glenda

NAIL TECHNICIANS NEEDED ASAP FOR EXCLUSIVE NAIL SHOP CALL ELLI 683-0106

Plastic Surgeon
to Share Clinic at Medical Plaza Ortigas Call 687-1337

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MONEX PAWNSHOP
A. Mercado St. Sto. Rosario City of Sn Fdo Pampanga - will auction all expired loans on July 2, 2003 at 10am - D. Yap Auctioneers.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of LIDWINA LOS BAÑOS ABES had executed a Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of estate with waiver of rights on April 10, 2003 and acknowledged the same before Notary Public Dante S. David for and in the City of Quezon, Philippines and bearing Doc. No. 139; Page No. 28; Book No. 1; Series of 2003 of his Notarial Register (PDI-June 20, 27 & July 4, 2003)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late REBECCA I. MADRIAGA has been extrajudicially settled by Ma. Theresa M. Quincina as per Doc.#76, Page 17, Book X, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Leovigildo Cerilis of Lope Quezon.
(PDI-June 20, 27 & July 4, 2003)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES Local Intl training Call Danee 0917-9046161

TELEMARKETERS/TRAINEES Part/Full time Call Danee 0917-9046161

VIDEOKE P25T 09173312287

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

FLORINDA O. CADORNA,
Mortgagee,
--versus--

Extra-Judicial Foreclosure
of Real Estate Mortgage
under Act 3135 As Amended Act 4113

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. 03-1967

SPOUSES BENJAMIN C. DOMINGO
and NELLY DOMINGO,
Mortgagors.
x---------------------------x

"NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE"

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended filed by Florinda O. Cardona, Mortgagee, against the above-mortgagors, Spouses Benjamin C. Domingo and Nelly Domingo, with residence and postal address at Blk. 6 Lot II, Tatalon, Quezon City, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of April 22, 2003, amounts to Three Million Thirty Six Thousand Pesos (PhP 3,036,000.00) interest thereon plus attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and foreclosure expenses. The Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Sheriff, thru the undersigned Deputy Sheriff will sell at public auction on July 18, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Manila City Hall facing Philippine Normal University, on the highest bidders, for cash and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all its improvements to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 253065
B–T-1532 P–65

"A PARCEL OF LAND (Lot 13-B-2-A of the subdivision plan psd-00-057117, being a portion of Lot 13-B-2 Psd-00-052090, LRC No. 11546), situated in the District of Sta. Cruz, City of Manila, Island of Luzon, Bounded on the SW., along line 1-2 by Callejon (2.00 m. wide); on the W., along line 2-3 by Lot 13-B-1, Psd-00-052090; on the N., along line 3-4 by Tayuman Street; and on the E. along line 4-1 by Lot 13-B-2-B of the subdivision plan, Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being S. 46 deg. 02'E., 836.06 m. from BLIM NO. 52, Manila Cadastre, thence N. 85 deg. 44'W., 2.98 m. to point 2; thence N. 4 deg. 17'E., 16.58 m. to point 3; thence N. 83 deg. 41'E 2.98 m. to point 4; thence P. 4 deg. 07., 17.12 m. to the point of beginning; containing an area of FIFTY (50) SQUARE METERS.

is registered in the name of Spouses Benjamin C. Domingo and Nelly Domingo of legal age, married, Filipino citizen. Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the titles herein above described, encumbrances, therein, if any thereby.

Manila, Philippines, June 23, 2003.

(Sgd.) Jennifer H. dela Cruz-Buendia
Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio
Sheriff, Manila

(Sgd.) Francisco C. Salvador
Sheriffs-in-charge

Copy furnished:
Spouses Benjamin C. Domingo and Nelly Domingo
Blk. 6 Lot 11 Tatalon, Quezon City

Francisco Benedicto III
Counsel for the Mortgage-Petitioner
Blk. 1 Lot 4 Suzette Nicolas St.,
BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City

(PDI–June 27, July 4 & 11, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

"SKF PHILIPPINES INC."

BEARHOLD PHILIPPINES INC. is the owner of fifty-seven (57) class A shares of stock of SKF PHILIPPINES INC., with Stock Certificate No. 001-A. Notice is hereby given that such stock certificate has been lost and cannot be located. All claims will be barred after one year and the lost certificates will be considered cancelled after which new certificates will be issued to the registered owners.

(PDI–June 20, 27 & July 4, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN 713-7284 / 0917-7939632

Earn & Travel 09177951125

EARN Fr Home N Travel 8376068

GET THE
MY DREAM JCB
3390630/0660/0670

Retire 2Yrs 0918-9051567

RTW Consign 09167940002

Siopao Mfg Wanted Dealer Free Del @ Factory Price 4531143 /09172030771 Weng

URGENT! 10 PART-TIME 651-0616 / 0917-8106183

Work By Phone, Earn Up 2 P30T/mo.. 23&Up! 5300749

Work from Home 09178114249

Int'l Home Base Bus. 724-6210

NOTICE OF LOSS

"METRO PARKING MANAGEMENT (PHIL.) INC."
Notice is hereby given that the following stock certificates have been reported lost - Zamri Bin Adam Stock Cert. No. 016 for one share, Metro Parking (M) SDN. BHD Stock Cert. No. 008 for one share, Shahfee Abdul Talib - Stock Cert. No. 014 for one share, Jamaludin Bin MD Ali Stock Cert. No. 013 for one share, & Salwah Hassan Stock Cert. No. 012. All claims will be barred after one year and the lost certificates will be considered cancelled after which new certificates will be issued to the registered owners
(PDI--June 20, 27 & July 4, 2003)

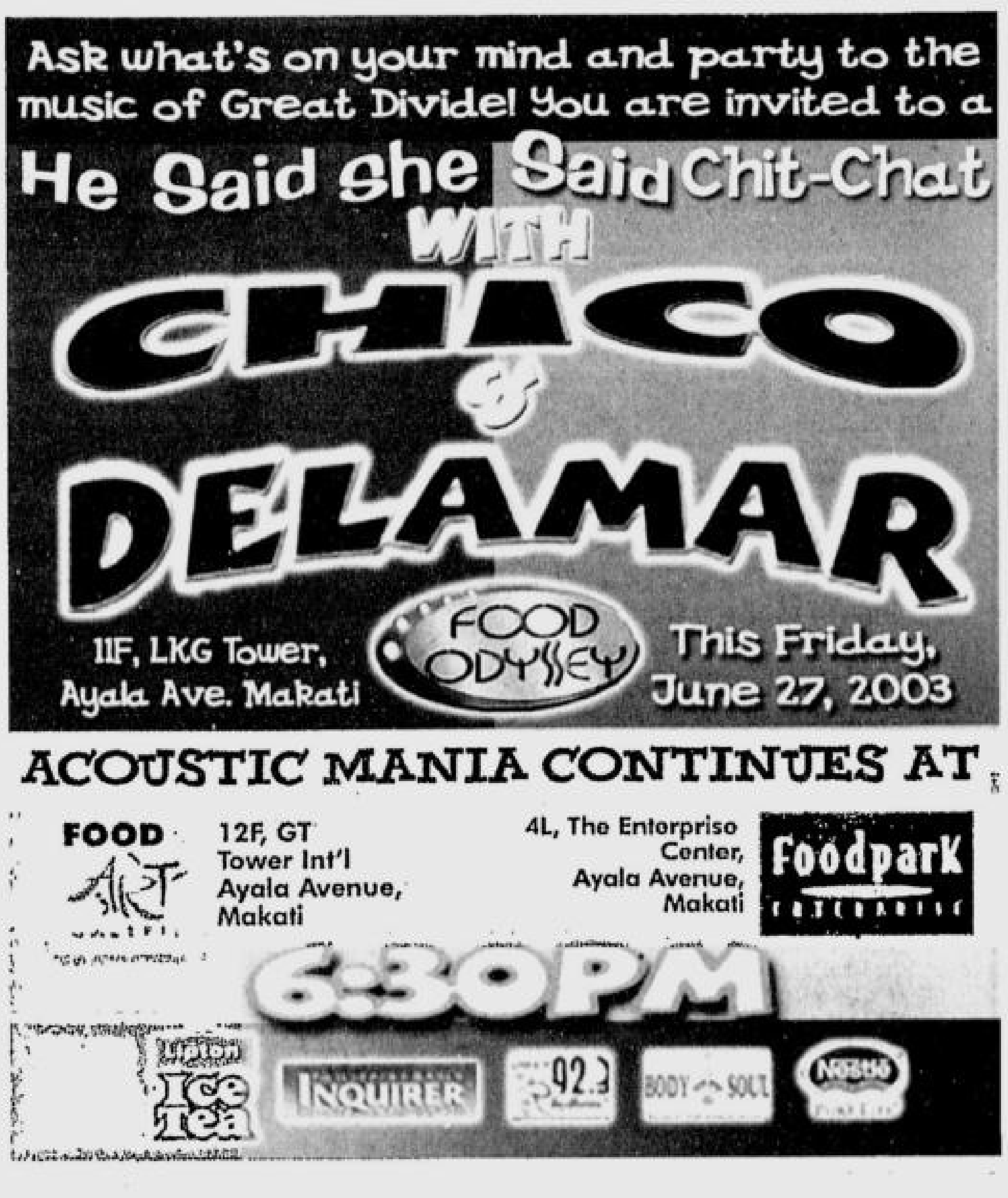
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

RIGHTS FOR SALE

LEASEHOLD RIGHTS IMPTS Katipunan Ave (075)5132276

BUSINESS FOR SALE

TELECOM FRANCHISE 4 SALE 0916-5730004



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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Palawan
Municipality of Taytay
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Municipality of Taytay, Province of Palawan invites all interested contractors, Category "Medium Sub-Class B" to pre-qualify and to bid for the Construction of Public Market two-storey building with dimension of 20.00 m. x 31.75 m., having a ground floor area of 634 sq.m. and second floor area of 634 sq.m.

Approved Budget for the contract to be bid is **P16,000,000.00.**

Application for pre-qualification shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only qualified bidders shall be invited in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Interested Contractors shall submit pre-qualification documents to the MPBAC Secretariat on or before 3:00 p.m. of July 1, 2003.

Pre-bid conference will be on July 9, 2003 at 10 o'clock AM at the Office of the Municipal Mayor. Submission and opening of bids will be announced thereafter.

Bidding Documents can be secured from MPBAC Secretariat/ Planning and Engineering Office upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00.

The municipality reserves the right to reject any application for Pre-qualification of all bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive minor informality in the bids required, and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal, as evaluated by MPBAC, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ROBERTO V. RODRIGUEZ**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI–June 19, 24 & 27, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100,
Philippines Tel. 9252401

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that **OLD CRASH CART, etc.** will be sold through sealed bids by the Disposal Committee for equipment on an **"as-is-where-is"** basis on **August 28, 2003 at 10:30 a.m.** at the Pacemaker Room, Basement, Medical Arts Building.

Bid Form, terms and conditions and details of items to be bidded out may be obtained from Mr. Zoilo Luna of Property Section.

(Sgd.) **ZYLMA M. SANCHEZ**
Chairman, Disposal Committee for Equipment

(PDI - June 27, 28 & 29, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER- AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILTY AND TO BID

The PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS) invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Department of Education (DepEd) IT Equipment.

The approved budget for this contract is P17, 082, 230.00.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-procurement Conference that will be held on July 03, 2003, 9:30 a.m., Thursday, at the PS Conference room, 2nd floor, PS Complex Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.

The bid documents shall be available at the PS-PURCHASING DIVISION starting June 20, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Operations Manager at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of proposals shall be on July 17, 2003 at 9:30 a.m., Thursday.

For more information, please call the PS-Purchasing Division at telephone nos. 561-6098 or 563-9402.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI- June 20 & 27, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A REDUCTION IN RATES IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 60 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 119, WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2003-96

LEYTE V ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO V)
Applicant

x- -x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V) on March 10, 2003 of an application for the approval of a reduction in rates in compliance with Section 60 of the Republic Act No 9136 and Executive Order No 119, with prayer for provisional authority, docketed as ERC Case No. 2003-96. The applicant proposed a rate reduction in rates equivalent to P0 0441/kWh.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on July 11, 2003 at two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) in the afternoon at LEYECO II, Real St., Tacloban City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed before the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable MANUEL R. SANCHEZ, Chairman, and the Honorables MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO, OLIVER B. BUTALID, CARLOS R. ALINDADA, and LETECIA V. IBAY, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 7th day of May 2003 at Pasig City

(Sgd.) FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.
Executive Director III

(PDI–June 27 & 28, 2003)

A leading garment manufacturer is looking for an in-house

DESIGNER

- Female, 21-30 years old
- Graduate of BS Clothing Technology Fashion Designing or any related course
- Must be computer-literate
- Must possess talent and skill in conceptualizing fashion collection geared for the local market

Contact : **Maritess @ 935-3567 or 453-3789**

NOTICE

Goodyear Eagle F1 Users On Road Hazard Warranty

☐ We now have new procedures out for claiming Road Hazard Warranty, including new forms and requirements.

☐ If you own Goodyear Eagle F1 tyres, please go back to the outlet where you purchased them and fill out a New Registration Form so that you may be qualified to claim warranty if any road hazard damage occurs on your tyres. Just present a COPY OF INVOICE and the Old Road Hazard Claim Card, only if a claim card was given to you.

☐ If you have not registered with your outlet, and a road hazard damage occurred on your tyre, you may claim Road Hazard Warranty using the Old Road Hazard Claim Card but only until October 31, 2003. If you don't have the Road Hazard Claim Card, you may still claim Road Hazard Warranty but only until July 31, 2003. Both instances require you to present a COPY OF INVOICE.

☐ So we urge you to go back to your tyre outlet to register for the New Road Hazard Warranty. For inquiries and concerns, please call the Goodyear Customer Service Hotline at 850-9999 loc. 101 to 105.

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF OLONGAPO
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR
email: olongapo@hvisions.com
(6347) 222-2232 / 222-2206 / 222-2565
web: www.olongapocity.gov.ph
fax no. (6347) 222-4777

25 June 2003

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The City Government of Olongapo invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for furnishing the necessary labor, materials, equipment and services for the PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL SERVICE WARDS AND OFFICES AT JAMES L. GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, Brgy. Asinan, Olongapo City. The project calls for the construction of a three-storey building that would have a total floor area of 655.20 square meters with only the first two floors fully completed. The approved budget for the contract to be bid is P8.0 Million from the local fund.

Interested bidders classified and registered with the Inter-Agency Committee on Registration and Classification of Contractors as at least "Medium A" on Building and prequalified by the Local PBAC are eligible to bid for this project. Experience on related project is necessary.

Pre-C forms shall be made available to contractors classified above at the PBAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office upon submittal of Letter of Intent and latest PCAB License on July 10, 2003 at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, Office of the City Mayor, 2nd floor City Hall, Olongapo City. Prospective bidders are required to bring original copy of Contractor's License for verification/authentication purposes.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification statements shall not be later than 5:00 p.m. of July 24, 2003 to be submitted at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, 2nd floor City Hall, this city. The Local PBAC shall notify in writing all prequalified and pre-disqualified contractors.

Bid/Tender documents are available for issuance starting August 6, 2003 at the City Planning and Development Office, 2nd floor City Hall to prequalified bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) per set at the City Treasurer's Office.

All bids from prequalified contractors must be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 a.m. on August 21, 2003 at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, this city after which all bids will be publicly opened.

A pre-bid conference will be conducted on August 12, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. at the City Council Session Hall, 2nd floor City Hall, Olongapo City.

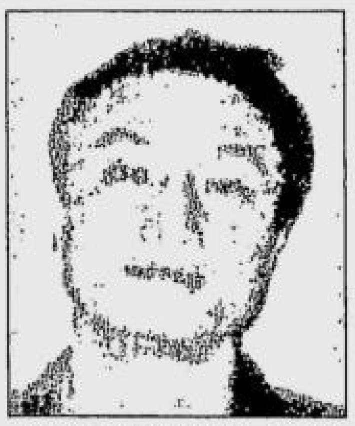
All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bid evaluation and awards of contract shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations.

The City Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the City.

(Sgd.) CYNTHIA G. CAJUDO
Acting City Mayor and PBAC Chairman

(PDI--June 27 & July 7, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



JEFFREY S. GO

JEFFREY S. GO, with last known address at c/o Golden New Horizon Co. Ltd., Bayabas, Kapisnon, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City, and whose picture appears above, has a pending Criminal Case for Violation of BP 22. There is also a **WARRANT OF ARREST** issued by MTCC 7, Cebu City, under Criminal Case No. 109308-R.

A monetary reward will be given to anyone who can supply any information leading to the arrest of said Jeffrey S. Go. Please relay information to Atty. FELIPE M. LANDICHO, at tel. no. (032) 256-1110 or (032) 412-4810.

(PDI June 27, 2003)

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sbma SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Rm. 223 Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
TEL NOS (047) 252-4191/4713

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the project described below are invited to submit Application for Eligibility and to Bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors are invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

A. Name of Project : **PROPOSED GREENWOODS PARK DEVELOPMENT**
Location : Sub-Com Area, Subic Bay Freeport Zone

B. Project Description/Scope of Works:

Project Description/Scope of Works:

Development of the site into a park and dining area to include the following:

1. Civil Works - Demolition of existing structures, removal of trees and obstruction, and scraping of top soil, backfilling, construction of walk bridge, curb and gutter, and installation of drainage system.
2. Landscaping Work - Installation of park pavement, park furnitures, and hardscaping works.
3. Electrical Works - Construction of metering banks and underground powerline ducting, installation of floodlights, park lamps, and power transformers.
4. Installation of water and sewer lines.
5. Other miscellaneous and incidental works indicated in the drawings to complete the projects.

C. Approved Budget Cost : **Php 8 M (Locally Funded)**

D. Required PCAB Registration and Classification/License:

PCAB Principal Qualification and Category
General Building "B"/General Engineering "B"

Kind of Project and Respective Size Ranges
Park, Playground or Recreation work "MA"
Sewerage or sewage system "SB"

Other Required PCAB Registration and Classification License
Specialty "C"
Electrical Works "SB"

E. Cost of Qualification Statement/Forms

Php 500.00 (non-refundable)

Issuance date : July 7 to 8, 2003 only from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Engineering Department, PWTSG, SBMA
Rm. 223, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

F. Deadline for submission of accomplished Prequalification/Eligibility Statements

July 15, 2003 @ 5:00 p.m.

Addressed to: ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ
BAC Chairman / Sr. D.A. for Support Services
Rm. 205, Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

G. Time and date of submission and opening of bids, Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibles.

Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all contractors with valid PCAB (Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board) Contractors License and Registration. Prospective bidders are required to submit a letter of **intent and certified true copy of the Contractors License** upon purchase of the forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid and shall bring the original copy of the Contractors PCAB License Classification Registration for verification and authentication purposes.

Bid Documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractors duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contract shall be governed by the latest provision of Executive Order # 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation.

The SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **Atty. CHITO M. CRUZ**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - June 27 & July 4, 2003)

---

sbma SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Rm. 223 Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
TEL NOS (047) 252-4191/4713

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the project described below are invited to submit Application for Eligibility and to Bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors are invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

A. Name of Project **RENOVATION OF BLDG. 29**
Location Subic Bay Freeport Zone

B. Project Description/Scope of Works:

Project Description/Scope of Works:

The proposed project shall include supervision and supply of all labor, materials and equipment, as follows:

- Demolition and Removal Works
- Installation of New:
  - Light Metal Partitions
  - Gypsum Board Wall Partitions
  - Wooden Bookshelves
  - Vinyl Tile Flooring
  - Wooden Doors
  - PVC Doors
  - Acoustic Ceiling
  - Skylight Roofing
- Painting of Building Interior
- Electrical Works
- Plumbing Works

C. Approved Budget Cost **Php 1.50 M (Locally Funded)**

D. Required PCAB Registration and Classification/License.

PCAB Principal Qualification and Category
General Building "C"

Kind of Project and Respective Size Ranges
Building and Industrial Plant "SB"

E. Cost of Qualification Statement/Forms

Php 500.00 (non-refundable)

Issuance date : July 7 to 8, 2003 only from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Engineering Department, PWTSG, SBMA
Rm. 223, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

F. Deadline for submission of accomplished Prequalification/Eligibility Statements

July 15, 2003 @ 5:00 p.m.

Addressed to: ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ
BAC Chairman / Sr. D.A. for Support Services
Rm. 205, Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

G. Time and date of submission and opening of bids, Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibles.

Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all contractors with valid PCAB (Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board) Contractors License and Registration. Prospective bidders are required to submit a letter of **intent and certified true copy of the Contractors License** upon purchase of the forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid and shall bring the original copy of the Contractors PCAB License Classification Registration for verification and authentication purposes.

Bid Documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractors duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contract shall be governed by the latest provision of Executive Order # 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation.

The SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **Atty. CHITO M. CRUZ**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - June 27 & July 4, 2003)

ARLINGTON
Memorial Chapels, Inc.
Congratulations on your 18th Anniversary
from:
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

ARLINGTON
Memorial Chapels, Inc.
Congratulations on your 18th Anniversary
from:
PDI — CLASSIFIED ADS

THE OFFICERS AND STAFF OF

C.F. SHARP GROUP OF COMPANIES

Announce with great sorrow the untimely demise of their President & Chief Executive Officer

ARTURO V. ROCHA

on June 23rd 2003 in Dublin, Ireland and express their heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family for their great loss.

A Mass will be celebrated for the eternal repose of his soul on Sunday, 7:00 P.M., June 29, 2003 at the Capilla del Señor y de la Virgen, San Antonio Memorial Chapels, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Necrological services will be held on Monday, 10:00 A.M., June 30, 2003 at the Santuario de San Antonio. Interment will follow immediately after the necrological services.

Please omit flowers, donations to the FRIENDS OF ELSIE GACHES VILLAGE or KAIBIGAN ERMITA OUTREACH FOUNDATION, INC. would be greatly appreciated.

God has you in his keeping,
We have you in our hearts

In Loving Memory on the
100th Birthday of the Late

LOURDES (DEDING) VILLAMIL JACINTO

25 Nable St., Dagupan City
Born June 27, 1903

Beloved wife of the late
ANDRES C. JACINTO of
Aliaga, Nueva Ecija

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Parish of St. John the Evangelist *Dagupan City*	7:00 a.m., June 27, 2003
Parish of St. John the Evangelist *Dagupan City*	10:00 a.m., June 29, 2003
Our Lady of the Purification Parish *Binmaley, Pangasinan*	5:45 a.m., June 27, 2003
Epiphany of Our Lord Parish *Lingayen, Pangasinan*	6:00 a.m., June 27, 2003
Anunciation of the Lord Parish *Bonuan Gueset, Dagupan City*	6:30 a.m., June 27, 2003
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice *UP Diliman, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m., June 27, 2003
Sta. Maria Della Strada *Katipunan Road, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m., June 25, 2003
Monasterio De Sta. Clara *Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m., June 27, 2003
St. Joseph Shrine *Aurora Blvd., Project 3, Quezon City*	7:00 p.m., June 27, 2003
Divine Word Mission Seminary (Christ the King) *E. Rodriguez, Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*	6:00 p.m., June 27, 2003
Santisimo Rosario Parish Church, UST, *Espana Mla.*	7:30 a.m., June 27, 2003
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, St. John the Baptist Parish *Quiapo, Manila*	11:00 a.m. June 27, 2003

Her sister (†) Fanny V. Espino; brother Ricardo B. Villamil

Her children	(†) Adventur, (†) Atty. Roman Felumino, (†) Fr. Andres Dimas, Dr. Marie, Rosie.
Daughters-in-Law	(†) Dr. Imelda Jovellanos-Jacinto Dr. Lourdes Fernandez-Jacinto
Grandchildren	(†) Jocelyn, Joel, Mama Lourdes (Malu), (†) Jennifer, Barbara (Babette), Andres Alipio (Alan), relatives & friends, request to remember Lourdes (Deding) in their prayers.

ROSA "ROSING" SEVILLA ARCEO

Joined her Creator on June 25, 2003 at the age of 87 after receiving the last Sacrament.

Her LOVING SON **"Boy" Arceo**; daughter-in-law **Cynthia**; grandchildren: **Butch & Karen, Buddy, Bubbles, Sharon & Cris,** and **Bumper**; great grandchildren: **Mikey, Rafael, Gabie, Luis** and **Samantha**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal happiness and repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Del Pilar Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Cremation will follow the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 29, 2003, after which she will be laid to rest in her crypt at the St. James Cathedral, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

> "For My yoke is easy
> and my burden
> is light."
> **Matthew 11:30**

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document I.D.
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

One Team. One Family.
. . because Arlington cares
Cherry
Butch
Chuck
Bobby
Joemar

ARLINGTON
Memorial Chapels, Inc.
MAIN:
12 G. Araneta Avenue,
Quezon City
Phone Nos. 715-1025 to 28

BRANCH:
C. Raymundo cor Mercedes Ave.
San Miguel, Pasig City
Phone Nos. 747-8609 / 747-8599

PLDT:
1-800-10-FUNERAL (3863725)
GLOBE:
0917-8BURIAL (0917-8287425)
SMART:
0918-9SOLACE (0918-9765223)
WEBSITE:
www.arlingtonph.com

Our Beloved

LUCY O. ORARA

High School, Maryknoll College 1981
Mass Com, U.P. 1985
Died June 25, 2003.

Her remains lie in state at Bahay Karmelo
OLMC Parish, Project 6, Quezon City
Cremation will be on Saturday, June 28, 2003 at
La Funeraria Paz Crematorium,
Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

Psalm 21:15

To everything, there is a season:
and a time for every purpose under the Heavens
A time to live, a time to die,
A time to laugh, a time to cry,
A time for sorrow and a time for joy....
Ecclesiastes 3:2 and 4

Our Dearly Beloved Papa

JOSE D. ALESNA

Peacefully joined his Almighty Father
on 25 June 2003 at the age of 57.

Devoted husband to : ***Aurora S. Geronimo -Alesna***
Most loving father to : ***Anna*** and ***Jun de Guzman***
Apple
Most doting grandpa to : ***Elijah Joaquin***

His loving brothers, sister, sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, cousins, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and friends request your prayers in his journey to everlasting life.

His body lies in state at Fr. G. Willmann, S.J. Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels in Sucat, Parañaque City.

Daily evening masses will be offered at 8:00 p.m.

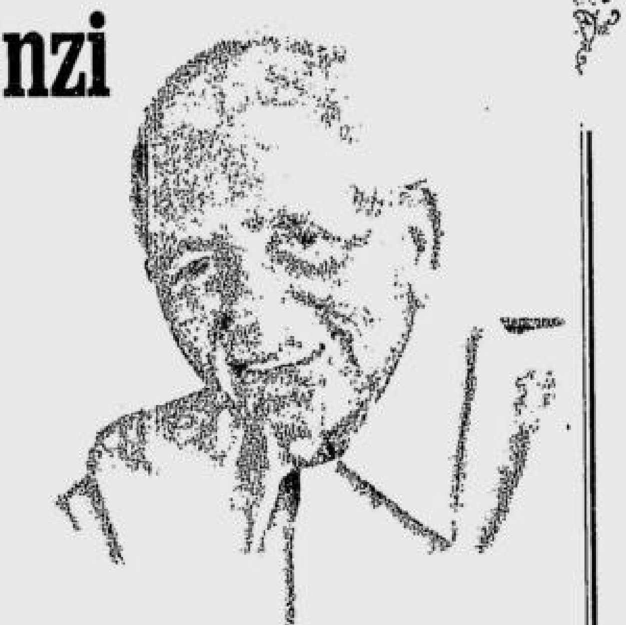
Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, 29 June 2003, 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at the Garden of Eden, Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

REMEMBERING THE MAN

Brig. Gen. Hans M. Menzi

(August 23, 1910 – June 27, 1984)

Philanthropist.
Industrialist.
Businessman. Sportsman.
Publisher. Civic Leader.
Soldier. Aviator.
Filipino.



Founder
Menzi Trust Fund, Inc.

Let the light of education shine across the land!

Menzi Graduates 2003

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Jim R. Espiritu - **Cum Laude**	BS Agriculture	Aklan State University
Michael V. Mercado Jr. - **Cum Laude**	BS Chemical Engineering	University of St. La Salle - Bacolod
Ryan B. Redoblado - **Cum Laude**	BS Education	University of Cebu
Reagan R. San Andres - **Academic Distinction**	AB Philosophy & Human Resource Development	San Beda College
Carlo Reymar V. Tirona - **With Honors**	BS Electronics & Computer Technology	Asian College of Science and Technology
Tediolin C. Ato	Bachelor of Elementary Education	Davao Oriental State College of Science & Technology
Neil Nemesio A. Baliuag	BS Agriculture	Cagayan State University
Anthony B. Barrio	BS Education	Central Mindanao University
Fortunato F. Garing	BS Agriculture	Mindanao State Univeristy
Wilfredo C. Guerero Jr.	BS Electrical Engineering	Western Mindanao State University
Alfie H. Lariosa	BS Industrial Technology	University of Southeastern Philippines
Richard Teejay S. Marquez	BS Economics	Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
Michael F. Mondragon	BS Computer Science	STI College - Novaliches
Jerroz B. Narciso	BS Medical Technology	Central Philippine University
Jonathan P. Roslin	BS Electronics & Communication Engineering	Don Bosco Technical College
Jheson F. Sadongdong	BS Food Technology	Davao Oriental State College of Science & Technology
Reynold Joy S. Tamayo	BS Electronics & Communication Engineering	Don Bosco Technical College

TECHNOLOGICAL

Eduard E. Bariquit - **With Distinction**	Digital Logic Technician	College of Technological Sciences - Cebu
Jose Eleazar F. Cardaño - **With Distinction**	Electronic Communication Technician	College of Technological Sciences - Cebu

SUCCESSFUL BOARD EXAMINEES

Carlo James N. Abrasia - **4th Placer November 2002**	Chemical Engineer	University of St. La Salle - Bacolod
Morris C. Irigian	Civil Engineer	University of Cebu
Jeffrey P. Obiedo	Mechanical Engineer	University of Cebu
Marco C. Pelayo	Civil Engineer	Central Mindanao University

A Mass will be offered at 10:00 a.m. today
at the Menzi Trust Fund Office
20th Floor, Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

May 29, 1914 – June 24, 2003
The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of
TEST Consultants, Inc. announce with deep sorrow the demise of

CHAIRMAN BENEDICTO L. ADAN

Who passed away on June 24, 2003 at Methodist Hospital
in Arcadia County, Los Angeles, California.

His remains lie in Groman Eden Mortuary in Granada Hills, California. Mass will be offered on Saturday, June 28, 2003 at St. John the Baptist Church in Granada Hills California. Interment will follow at San Fernando Mission Cemetery in Mission Hills California. We request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul. Chairman Ben Adan will be deeply missed by the management & staff of TEST Consultants, Inc. whom he led and served with sincere dedication.

GUILBERT PEÑA AQUITANIA

Peacefully joined his Creator
on June 25, 2003 at the age of 53.

His bereaved family: Brothers **ELMER** & **NELSON**; Sisters-in-law **GLADYS** & **MALOU**; Niece **PRINCESS**; Nephews **JUN JUN**, **ARNEL**, **ARIES** & **MIKKO**; friends and relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel 2, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 29, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City at 9:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Guilbert P. Aquitania Foundation would be much appreciated.

HONORATO VIARDO LIWAG

May 3, 1928

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 23, 2003.

His loving wife **OTILIA MOGENIO LIWAG**; children **CONNIE** and **MAO**, **BILLY** and **CECIL**, **MARIO** and **BETH**, **RUDY** and **NENA**, **CORA** and **BOY**, **MARIE** and **KENT**, **TESS** and **BILL**; and grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 29, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

For our Dear Papa...

Bienvenido S. Arellano

January 8, 1934 - June 28, 2002

Holy Masses will be offered on his First Death Anniversary on June 28, 2003 at:

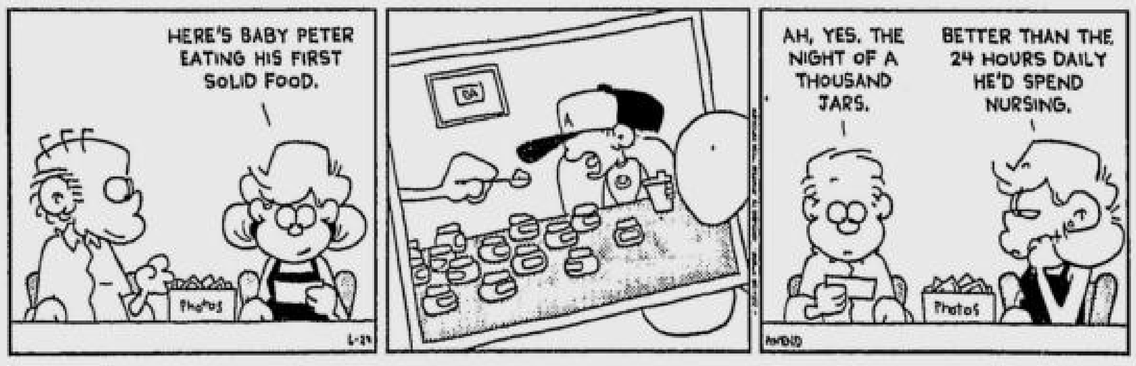
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, *(beside Claret School)*	**6:00 PM**
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, *Magallanes, Makati City*	**6:00 PM**
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, *Washington D.C., USA*	**11:00 AM**
St. Joseph's Parish, *Streetville (Mississauga), Ontario, Canada*	**9:00 AM**

A candle offering will be held on June 29, 2003 at
St. Anastacia R.C. Parish, *New Jersey, USA*

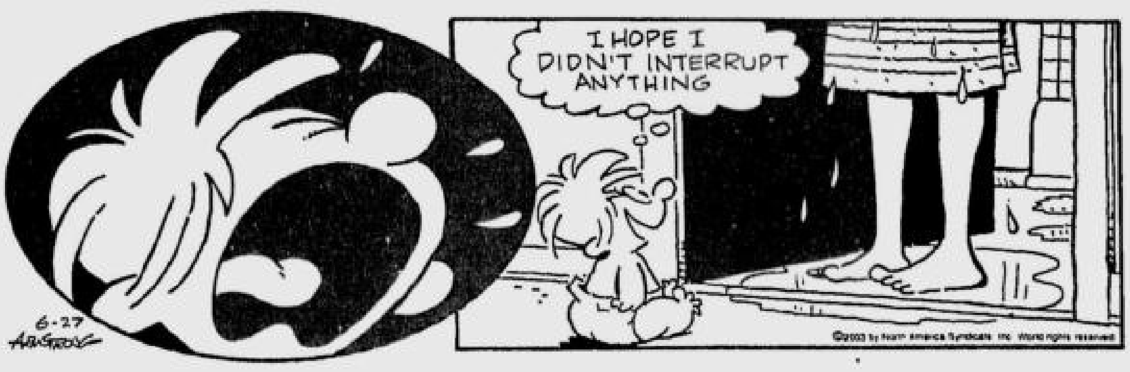
...we miss you so much.

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

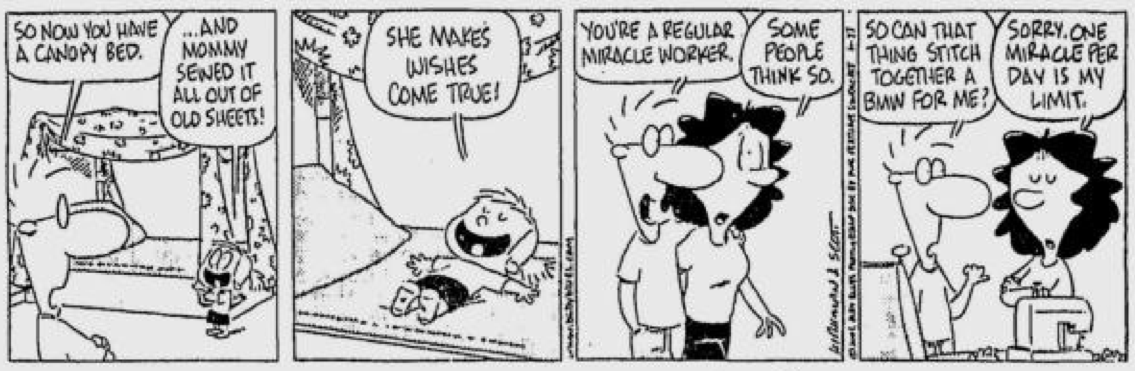
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


HERE'S BABY PETER EATING HIS FIRST SOLID FOOD.
Photos
AH, YES. THE NIGHT OF A THOUSAND JARS.
BETTER THAN THE 24 HOURS DAILY HE'D SPEND NURSING.
Photos
AMEND

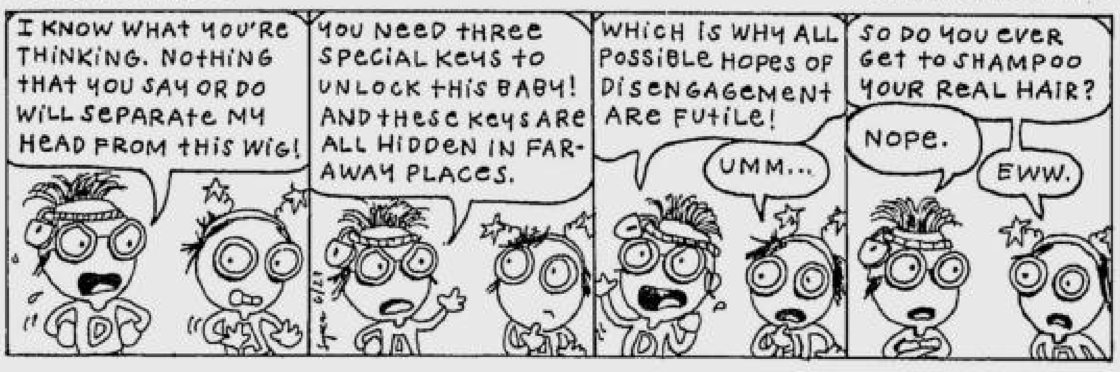
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I HOPE I DIDN'T INTERRUPT ANYTHING
6-27
ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


SO NOW YOU HAVE A CANOPY BED.
...AND MOMMY SEWED IT ALL OUT OF OLD SHEETS!
SHE MAKES WISHES COME TRUE!
YOU'RE A REGULAR MIRACLE WORKER.
SOME PEOPLE THINK SO.
SO CAN THAT THING STITCH TOGETHER A BMW FOR ME?
SORRY. ONE MIRACLE PER DAY IS MY LIMIT.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. NOTHING THAT YOU SAY OR DO WILL SEPARATE MY HEAD FROM THIS WIG!
YOU NEED THREE SPECIAL KEYS TO UNLOCK THIS BABY! AND THESE KEYS ARE ALL HIDDEN IN FAR-AWAY PLACES.
WHICH IS WHY ALL POSSIBLE HOPES OF DISENGAGEMENT ARE FUTILE!
UMM...
SO DO YOU EVER GET TO SHAMPOO YOUR REAL HAIR?
NOPE.
EWW.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are unusually determined and will succeed because of your own personal perseverance. You are territorial and have strong convictions. The word "casual" is not in your vocabulary. You need to feel that what you do is just and correct. You know when to attack and when to defend.
Birthdate of: Tobey Maguire, actor; Helen Keller, writer/lecturer; Julia Duffy, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Everything feels much better today. You feel more optimistic about your future, and you're ready to laugh with your friends. Obviously, this nicely promotes your own personal happiness.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Shopping for something for home or a family member will please you today. You will quite likely buy something original and unusual. But you'll like it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your restless feelings have subsided. Renew your focus on how to find the best way to make a living. Confucius said, "If you love what you do—you'll never work a day in your life."

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel prepared to take on extra responsibilities now. You see that the old maxim is true: What you put into something is exactly what you get out of it.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Conversations with a friend are particularly rewarding today. Make sure that you create time for social diversions and friendly discussions with pals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your relationship with bosses and VIPs is improved today! Nevertheless, you still need patience with partners and close friends. Consider this an opportunity for personal growth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Why not be a tourist in your own city today? Indulge your need for a change of faces and places. Look at your surroundings with new eyes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Make serious career plans that involve the support of others. You can count on others' endorsement. What you need from them will come through.

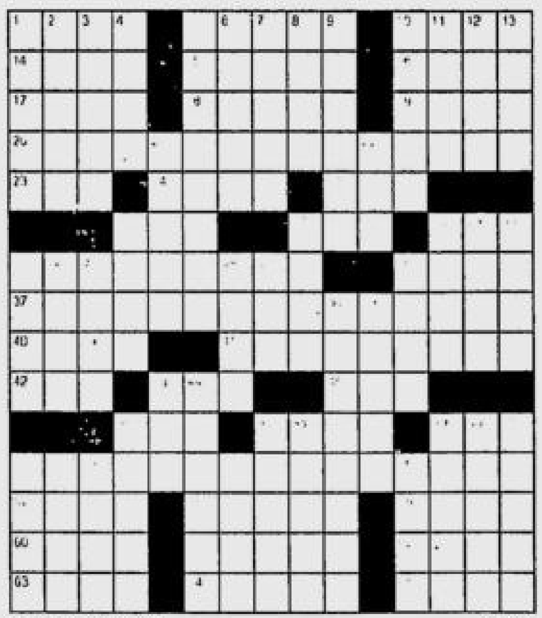
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): With the Moon opposite your sign, you are forced to go along with others, if for no other reason than courtesy and good will. (You can never have too much good will around you.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Look for ways to make where you work more attractive. After all, you have to spend a large part of your life there; why not enjoy it?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a great day for socializing, catching a movie, flirting with friends or stirring up new romance. You feel playful, prankish and ready for fun.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's best to agree with family members during important discussions today. Fiery Mars in your sign tends to make you impatient and too forceful. It's far better that others actually hear you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

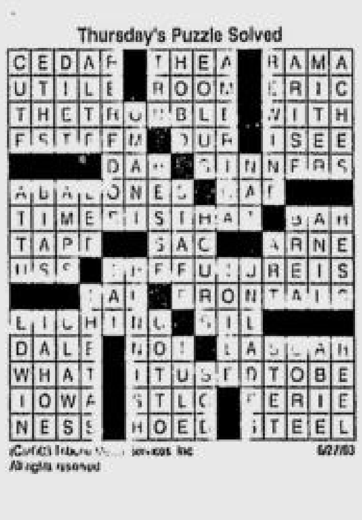


By Nellie G. Becker
Leesburg, GA
6/27/03

ACROSS
1 Greek cheese
5 College of the Southwest city
10 Famous apple-splitter
14 Arabian Sea gulf
15 Prufrock's creator
16 Pelvis bones
17 Writer Dinesen
18 Remove soap
19 Metallic sound
20 Pronoun-headed groups of words
23 South African golfer Ernie
24 Shoshones
25 "__ Miserables"
26 School org.
27 Had been
28 Joanne of "All the King's Men"
31 Compare
36 Bluenose
37 Nonliteral expressions
40 Top cards
41 State-run gambling
42 Blushing
43 __ kwon do
45 Gallery works
46 "__ Gang"
47 Pianist Peter
49 Tree fluid
52 The
57 False god
58 Puppeteer Lewis
59 Breakfast area
60 Chills and fever
61 Book datum
62 Dancer Tommy
63 Nebbish
64 "My Name Is __ Lev"
65 Mining products

DOWN
1 Laissez __
2 Ford flop
3 Bright ducks
4 Singer Paul
5 Tradition
6 Popeye's gal
7 Hop stems
8 Pear variety
9 "__ by Starlight"
10 New Testament book
11 Whitney and Lilly
12 Merchandise category
13 Falls behind
21 Private instructor
22 '52 and '56 candidate
26 And
27 Horizontal threads
28 Three in Berlin
29 Oriental staple
30 Caveman grunts
31 Distant
32 Pleasant
33 Matured
34 Capri or Wight
35 Fauna display
36 Impudently bold
38 More sparkling
39 H. Ross __
43 Large cask
44 Awn
46 No longer squeaking
47 Below, in poems
48 "Guitar Town" singer Steve
49 Scrub
50 Solo
51 Small dogs
52 Gorilla expert Fossey
53 Sharp side
54 Two squared
55 __ won't hurt a bit
56 Keen on

Thursday's Puzzle Solved


CEDAR THEA RAMA
UTILE ROOM ERIC
THETROUBLE WITH
ESTER FM OUR ISEE
DA SINNERS
ABALONES CAT
TIMEIS THAT SAH
TAPE SAC ARNE
USS EFFUSION REIS
AI FRONTAL
LICHTING OIL
DALE NO LASCAH
WHAT ITUSEDTOBE
IOWA STLC ERIE
NESS HOEL STEEL

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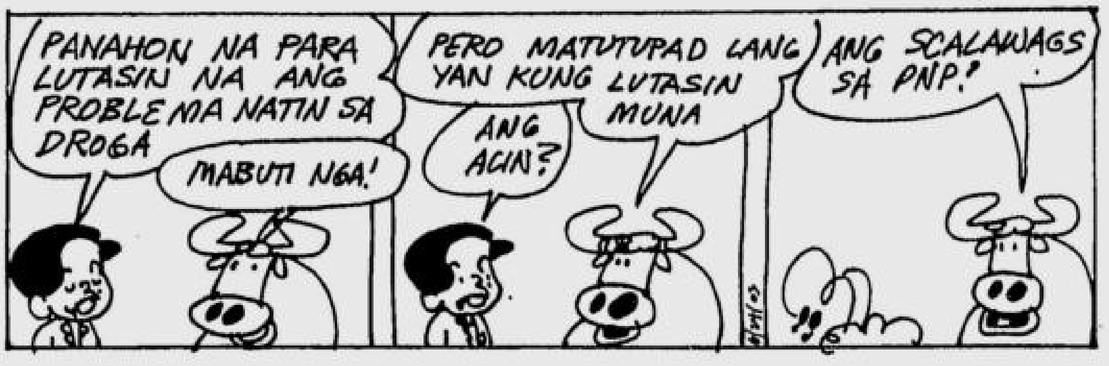
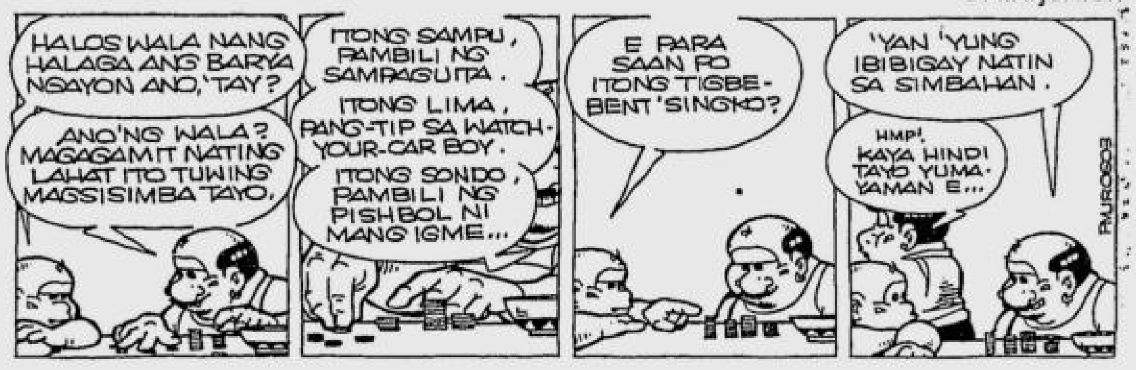
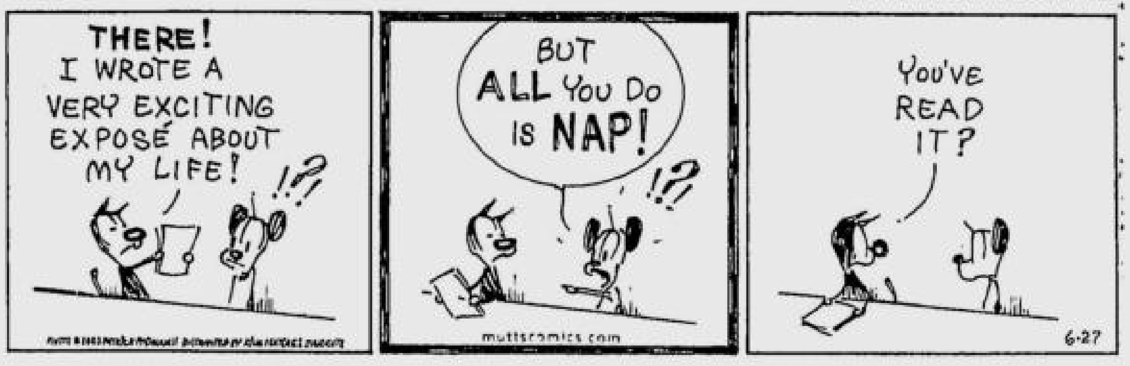
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


PANAHON NA PARA LUTASIN NA ANG PROBLEMA NATIN SA DROGA
MABUTI NGA!
PERO MATUTUPAD LANG YAN KUNG LUTASIN MUNA
ANG AGIN?
ANG SCALAWAGS SA PNP!

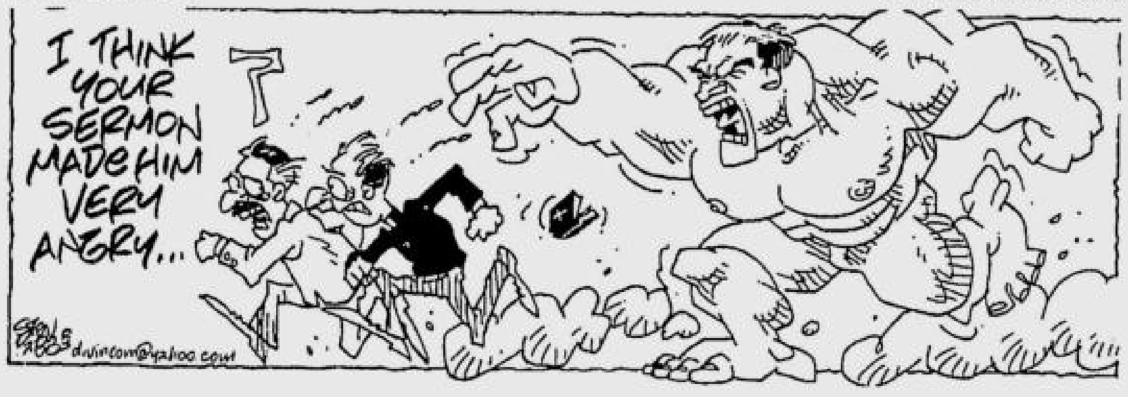
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


HALOS WALA NANG HALAGA ANG BARYA NGAYON ANO, 'TAY?
ANO'NG WALA? MAGAGAMIT NATING LAHAT ITO TUWING MAGSISIMBA TAYO.
ITONG SAMPU, PAMBILI NG SAMPAGUITA.
ITONG LIMA, PANG-TIP SA WATCH-YOUR-CAR BOY.
ITONG SONDO, PAMBILI NG PISHBOL NI MANG IGME...
E PARA SAAN PO ITONG TIGBE-BENT 'SINGKO?
'YAN 'YUNG IBIBIGAY NATIN SA SIMBAHAN.
HMP! KAYA HINDI TAYO YUMA-YAMAN E...
PMJR0603

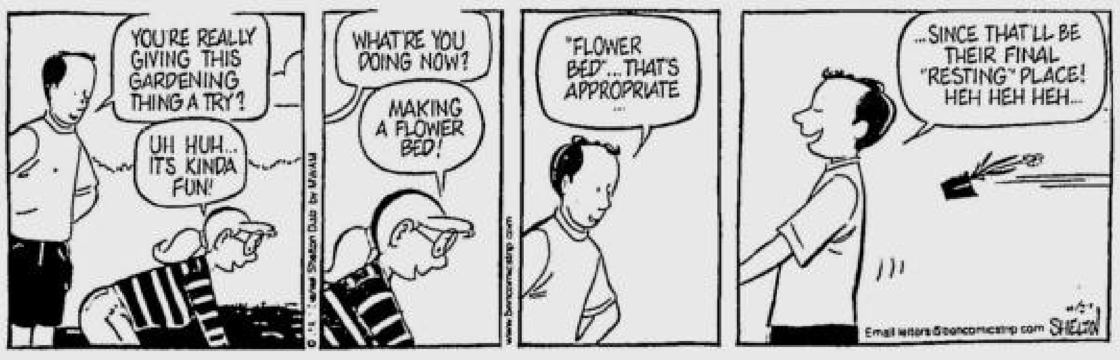
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THERE! I WROTE A VERY EXCITING EXPOSÉ ABOUT MY LIFE!
!?
BUT ALL YOU DO IS NAP!
!?
YOU'VE READ IT?
muttscomics.com
6-27

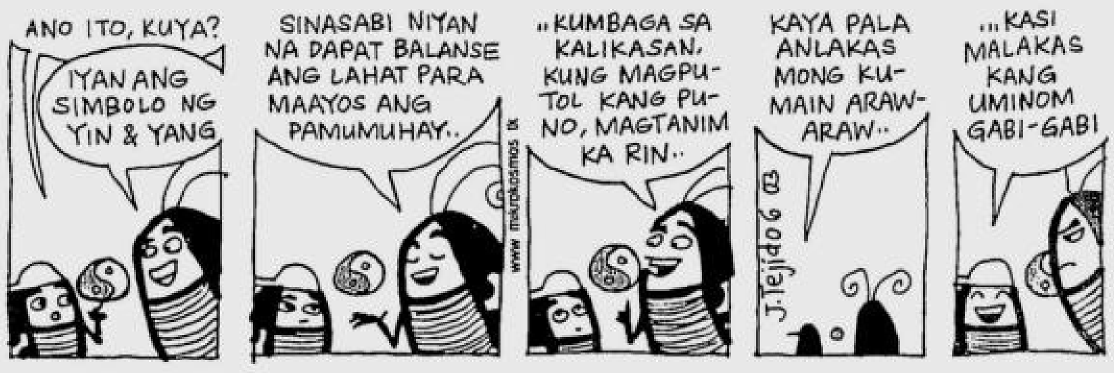
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I THINK YOUR SERMON MADE HIM VERY ANGRY...
divincom@yahoo.com

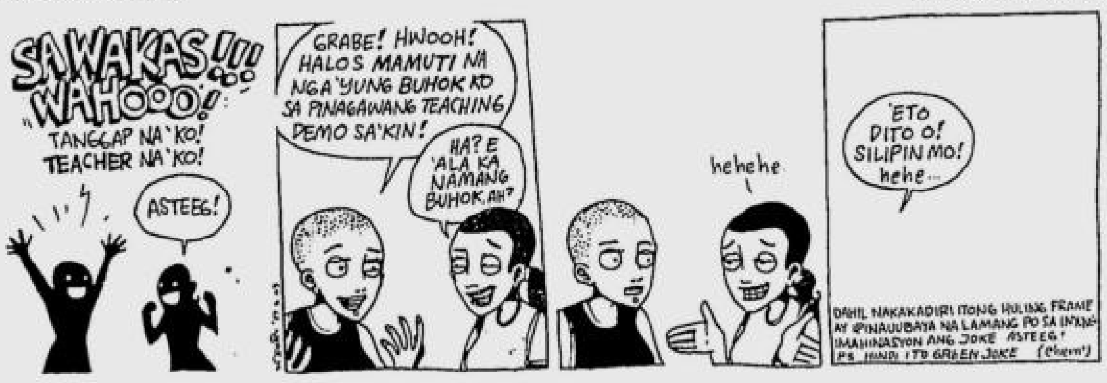
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU'RE REALLY GIVING THIS GARDENING THING A TRY?
UH HUH... IT'S KINDA FUN!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING NOW?
MAKING A FLOWER BED!
"FLOWER BED"... THAT'S APPROPRIATE ...
...SINCE THAT'LL BE THEIR FINAL "RESTING" PLACE! HEH HEH HEH...
www.bencomicstrip.com
SHELTON

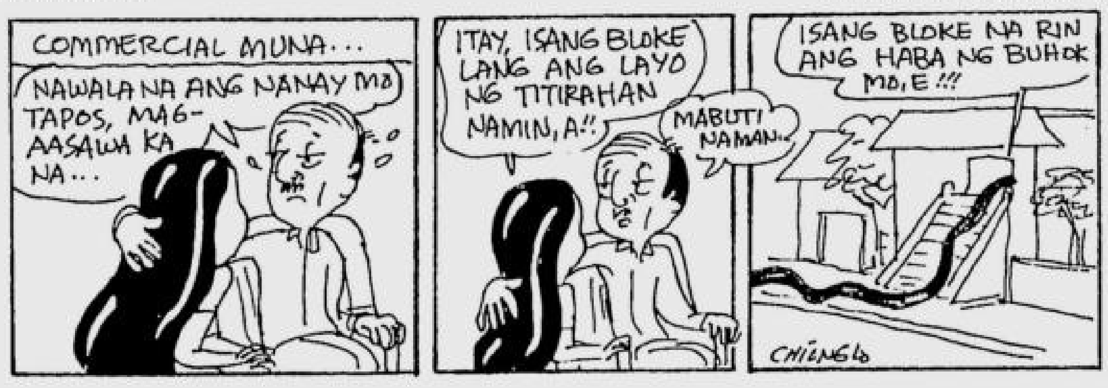
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO ITO, KUYA?
IYAN ANG SIMBOLO NG YIN & YANG
SINASABI NIYAN NA DAPAT BALANSE ANG LAHAT PARA MAAYOS ANG PAMUMUHAY..
..KUMBAGA SA KALIKASAN, KUNG MAGPUTOL KANG PUNO, MAGTANIM KA RIN..
KAYA PALA ANLAKAS MONG KUMAIN ARAW-ARAW..
...KASI MALAKAS KANG UMINOM GABI-GABI
J.Tejido 6 03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

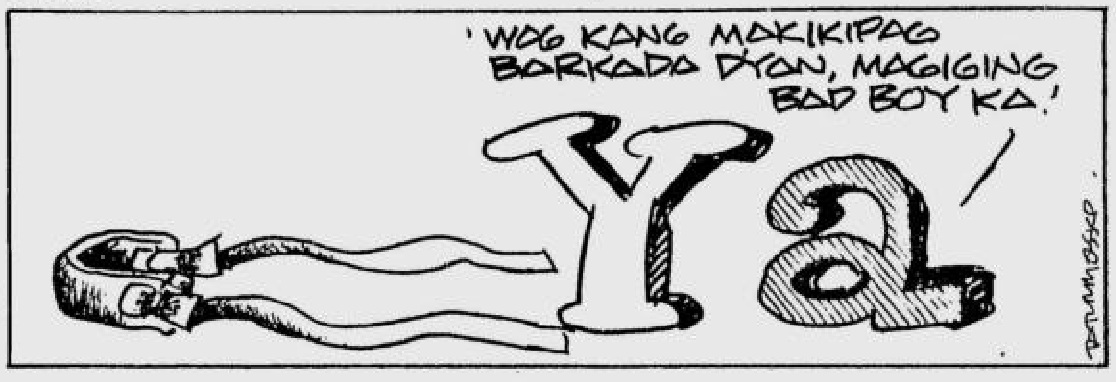
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


SAWAKAS!!! WAHOOO!
TANGGAP NA'KO! TEACHER NA'KO!
ASTEEG!
GRABE! HWOOH! HALOS MAMUTI NA NGA 'YUNG BUHOK KO SA PINAGAWANG TEACHING DEMO SA'KIN!
HA? E 'ALA KA NAMANG BUHOK, AH?
hehehe
'ETO DITO O! SILIPIN MO! hehe...
DAHIL NAKAKADIRI ITONG HULING FRAME AY IPINAUUBAYA NA LAMANG PO SA INYONG IMAHINASYON ANG JOKE. ASTEEG! PS. HINDI ITO GREEN JOKE (chem!)

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


COMMERCIAL MUNA...
NAWALA NA ANG NANAY MO TAPOS, MAG-AASAWA KA NA...
ITAY, ISANG BLOKE LANG ANG LAYO NG TITIRAHAN NAMIN, A!!
MABUTI NAMAN..
ISANG BLOKE NA RIN ANG HABA NG BUHOK MO, E!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KANG MAKIKIPAG BARKADA D'YAN, MAGIGING BAD BOY KA!
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BUSINESS

Iraq war, SARS slow down global economy

UNITED NATIONS—Uncertainty surrounding the war in Iraq and SARS, along with lagging trade and investment, have delayed a global economic recovery until later this year, the United Nations said Wednesday in its annual economic survey.

The UN report said gross world product, which increased by less than 2 percent last year, would inch up to 2.2 percent in 2003, accelerating slightly above 3 percent for 2004. The GWP is the aggregate value of all goods and services produced worldwide in a given year.

Last year's report had forecast a recovery late last year from a dramatic economic slowdown in 2001.

Ian Kinniburgh, director of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs that prepared the 18-page report, said concerns in the run-up to the March 20 US-led invasion of Iraq, which divided the international community, were the primary reason for the delay.

The uncertainty "discouraged consumers from spending, investors from investing and generally was the main factor we believe in derailing the recovery," Kinniburgh said, although he stressed that the military action was briefer and less disruptive than had been expected.

The report predicted that the end of the war, the containment of an outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), in Asia and Canada and positive fiscal and monetary policies would pave the way for a US-led global recovery starting in the second half of next year.

"The world economy was beset by heightened geopolitical uncertainties in late 2002 and early 2003," the report said. "Such factors continue to pose a downside risk to global economic growth, but this risk diminished substantially in the second quarter of 2003."

But Kinniburgh warned it would take time.

"While we expect the recovery to take off in the second half of this year ... it will be a fairly slow acceleration," he told reporters.

Douglas Porter, a senior economist at BMO Nesbitt Burns Securities, said the UN forecast was similar to what his company was expecting.

"Overall the global economy has disappointed this year and I think that one of the main reason was the spike in oil prices and the war in Iraq," he said in a telephone interview from Toronto.

The report said the United States was leading the recovery but faced a growing rate of unemployment, sluggish world trade and international financial flows. The United Nations also cited a risk of the possibility of deflation in a growing number of countries.

It said the dollar's recent depreciation would strengthen growth in the United States but could dampen the stimulus provided by the Americans to other economies that depend on exports as an engine of growth.

World exports increased by only 2 percent in 2002 and were expected to grow by less than 4 percent in 2003, according to the report.

"If this depreciation of the dollar is sustained, it will have major implications for global economic prospects," the report said. *AP*

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Wall St. believes Fed done with cuts

NEW YORK—Most of Wall Street's top bond dealers believe the Federal Reserve has finished cutting interest rates, even though its quarter-point move on Wednesday was smaller than many expected.

Of the 20 primary dealers surveyed by Reuters on Wednesday, a majority of 16 say the Federal Reserve will not change rates at its next policy meetings in August or September.

But three dealers expect a cut at the Aug. 12 meeting, and a fourth says such a move is possible.

Earlier on Wednesday, the central bank opted to trim the already-low federal funds rate by a quarter-point to 1.00 percent, the lowest level since 1958.

Looking further ahead, no one saw the Federal Reserve starting to actually tighten policy until well into 2004, and several said there would be no rate hikes till 2005. *Reuters*

Coke faces charges of deceptive practices

ATLANTA—A former Coca-Cola Co. employee who accuses the soft drink giant of engaging in deceptive marketing and accounting practices on Wednesday filed an amended complaint, with new charges that allege the company inflated revenues from its Japanese unit, among other things.

Marc Garber, a lawyer for ex-employee Matthew Whitley, said the amended state and federal complaints also include charges that there is wider metal residue contamination in Coca-Cola's frozen beverage machines, not just a small amount involving the Planet Java line, as originally charged.

"Now we're alleging that all of the Frozen Coke business involves contaminated beverages, which is about $100 million in profit," Garber told Reuters by phone late Wednesday.

The new charges also include allegations that Coca-Cola inflated revenue figures for its Japanese operations. *Reuters*

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Cater to 1.5B customers: Export halal food

By Dennis M. Arroyo

THINK of a "niche" market with some 7,000 products. Think of a customer base of 1.5 billion people. Think of an opportunity already seized by the biggest food empires on earth. Those are the parameters of the halal market.

Vast market

Halal refers to a specific standard covering food products for Muslims. The laws lay out rules on hygiene, preventing contamination from banned and diseased sources, and specify the proper way to kill animals. It's a whole quality control package.

The halal market is estimated at more than $150 billion every year, and it is growing. One can imagine the vast sweep of the Middle East, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei.

The Islamic community is the largest food importing market on the planet, whose members number a billion and a half.

There are 400 million Muslims in the Asean region alone. Indonesia is the biggest halal market, as 87 percent of her 200 million citizens are Muslims.

Malaysia has a sizeable Islamic population, and Muslims in Singapore and Hong Kong enjoy high purchasing power.

Wide range of products

Big business is into halal. Brands like Nestle, Dole Asia, Kraft Foods, McCormick, Cadbury, Unilever Australia, and Baskin Robbins cater to the vast market.

Halal food spans a very wide range of products. They can be flour-based like biscuits, pasta, and confectionery. They can take the form of fruit juices, concentrates, and canned fruit. Halal includes yogurt, health bars, and breakfast cereal. And yes, count in halal corned beef.

The Philippines may have the edge in exporting canned fruit, juices, vegetables, seafood, and processed meat. However, the country still does not have a halal food industry. Neither does she have a set of standards and rules covering halal products. An accrediting body has not yet been set up. Current halal labels cater only to local Muslims.

Other countries are way ahead in tapping this export market. In fact Thailand already has 700 accredited companies producing a range of 7,000 halal goods.

Building a halal industry

The Philippines has "yet to earn its credentials as a source of reliable and credible halal food products," says Jamil Hamza Olermo, founder of the Halal Resource Center. "It is in this respect that an organized and authoritative halal certification process needs to be in place." Olermo is also the co-founder of the Muslim Business Forum.

So far Malacañang has issued Executive Order No. 46 directing the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA) to create the guidelines for halal certification. The OMA

CATER/B2-2

BARRIO Fiesta canned home-cooked meals and frozen cuts manufactures for the SM Bonus brand.

Bottling and canning a restaurant's success

THE HUMBLE *bagoong* (fermented shrimp paste) has now found its way to the palate of international customers along with other home-cooked Filipino-ready-to-eat dishes, thanks to the ingenuity of Barrio Fiesta Manufacturing Corp. (BFMC).

BFMC didn't have the slightest idea that the Filipino's favorite delicacy could become a global sensation. When it began bottling its bagoong, all it was really concerned with was the convenience of its customers who couldn't get enough of Mama Chit's bagoong.

Mama Chit is, of course, Evangelista Ongpauco, proprietress of the famed Barrio Fiesta restaurant, a food business that began right in her own home in Caloocan in 1958. It was also in her backyard where she started bottling bagoong.

Customers loved Mama Chit's kare-kare (ox-tail in peanut stew), but they prized even more the viand's partner, Mama Chit's bagoong. At the time, Mama Chit's bagoong was bought in jars, a packaging that was deemed by one of her sons, Bonifacio, to be inconvenient and unappealing.

So Bonifacio thought of packaging the bagoong in a bottle that would not only be handy for customers but is more hygienic as well. In addition, a bottle would definitely trap the smell of bagoong which other people found offensive.

The bottled bagoong became an instant hit with the customers. Riding high from the customers' reception, Bonifacio even pushed the envelope further by introducing the product to supermarkets and groceries. Shoppers responded with such gusto that BFMC has become one of the leading suppliers of bottled bagoong in the retail market.

The bottled bagoong's wave of success in the local market inspired Bonifacio, now the president of BFMC, to put the product through a risky challenge—export it. As it turned out, however, it was not really a daunting task as Bonifacio earlier feared for BFMC's bottled bagoong captivated markets abroad especially in countries where there were large Filipino communities. It held successful debuts in the supermarket shelves of the US initially, followed by Canada, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai and Bahrain.

Gaining the patronage of the numerous Filipino communities abroad, the product saw a steady growth of demand for the next 10 years since it went into exports in 1987. The original recipe even gave way to two new varieties: the sweet, and the spicy.

As BFMC chief operating officer Vivien Tolentino puts it, "It was all about bagoong for 10 years."

BFMC's bottled bagoong success was followed by another. This time the venture was in the canned manufacturing business. The product: the best of Filipino cuisine by Barrio Fiesta.

The Barrio Fiesta restaurant [illegible]

B2-2

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Partitioning your total customers and profiling your customer segments

MARKETING RX

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

A MILLION Dollar Round Table (MDRT) insurance agency manager asks us: Read your article on SMS Suki Marketing last June 6. Great idea! You think I can use this method in insurance?

Yes, of course. First, you'd want to start building a customer database of those you've insured. If your customers consist of busy and therefore forgetful executives and housewives, you can text them reminders about their premium due dates. It's so simple, but only a handful do it. It's really the most basic Customer Relationship Management (CRM) or Suki marketing. Don't you hate it when you have a policy that lapses because you didn't get a follow up notice or a bill?

In the auto industry, the lifetime value of one loyal customer is estimated at about P15 million! Figure out the lifetime marketing value of one loyal customer in your insurance business. Applying the pareto principle, you'll find out that 20 percent of your clients account for 80 percent of your revenues. Therefore spend 80 percent of your marketing money to further "loyalize" your top 20 percent customers and to up sell and cross sell to them other products and services. But you can only do this if you have a marketing database.

Some time ago, in a marketing seminar for insurance companies, Dr. Ned was asked: "What is the effective segmentation strategy for insurance companies?" Here's the strategy that he came up with.

Buyers and non-buyers of your product as well as its users and non-users are consumer segments that are easy to identify, measure and access. They are a special case of, and a particularly strategic naturally occurring segments. Here's an example to clarify and illustrate.

Just when you thought that there were too many insurance agents running around, calling you to get your business, it turns out that we are an underinsured nation. More than 80 percent of eligible Filipinos are not insured. (I remember Lino Brocka's mother crying at his son's wake, saying that the popular director did not believe in life insurance.) This was the Philippine market for life insurance in 1998. That year's UAI (Usage, Attitude, Image) survey data indicated that only 16% of total eligible population in the country had a life insurance policy.

Advantages of naturally occurring partitioning:

In the leading life insurance company, among the insured segment, those who were current policyholders were as many if not less than the lapsed policyholders. Among those in this insured segment, mono-plan policyholders (those who bought just one insurance policy) were about twice as many as the multi-plan policyholders.

These categories of policyholders are what we refer to as "naturally occurring segments" (NOS). In this particular case, we have naturally occurring policy holding segments.

This manner of doing naturally occurring partitioning of the total market has at least two strategic marketing planning advantages. Exhibit 1 presents the market partitioning and shows these two advantages. (*See Exhibit 1 at the end of this column.*)

The second row in Exhibit 1 suggests the first strategic advantage of the naturally occurring partitioning of the life insurance market. Identifying the needed target segment behavior to go after in each identified NOS comes almost automatically. Among the uninsured segment, this target behavior is to get them to join the insured. You don't need science to correctly figure that out. It's the same with the lapsed policyholders. Common sense tells us that the target behavior is to re-instate them into the actively insured. And so on to the rest of the NOSs as specified in Exhibit 1's second row.

The second strategic advantage in the naturally occurring partitioning of the life insurance market logically flows from the first. Having identified the specific target behavior to go after in the market's four NOSs, the decision about the suitable communication or ad campaign to influence the target behavior per NOS is made just as simple. For example, because the uninsured segment is a mass market segment needing persuasion to enroll themselves among the insured, it is logical to influence them via a mass media ad campaign that will do the persuading.

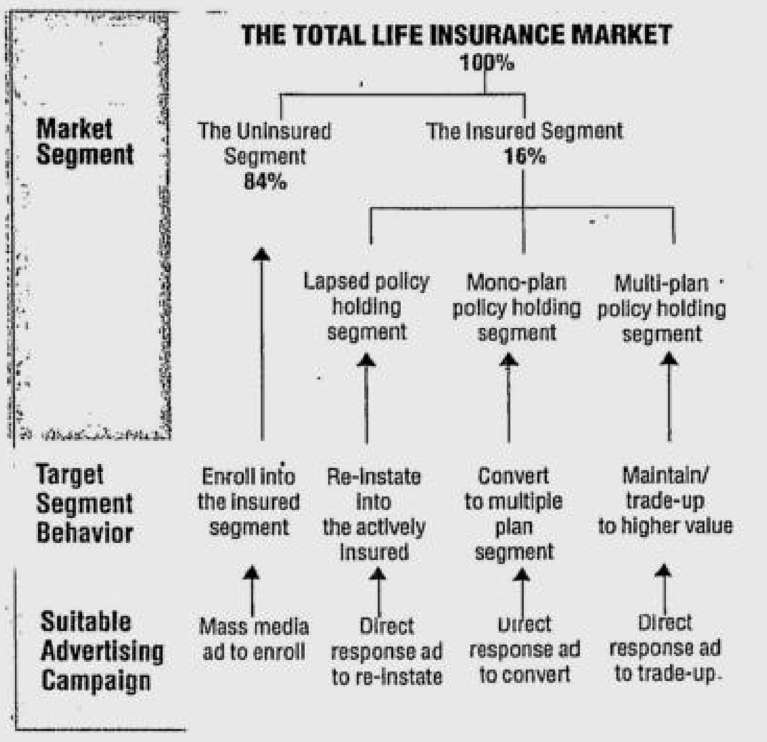
The remaining NOSs were the lapsed policyholders who needed to be re-instated, the mono-plan policy holders who had to be converted into multi-plan policyholders, and the multi-plan policy holders who can be made to trade-up to higher value policies. All three segments are similar in the sense that they are all niches and their individual members are in a database. Even though among the lapsed policyholders, many may no longer have current information in the database, updating the information is not impossible.

Because the target customers in these NOSs are contained in the company's customer database, the appropriate ad campaign for them is direct response advertising (either a combination of direct mail, telemarketing—or SMS and email if these are in your database). The key communication objective of each direct response advertising is determined by the target behavior for each segment. For the lapsed policyholders, for example, it's direct response advertising to re-instate. For the mono-plan policyholders, the ad objective is for conversion to multi-plan policy holding segment. For the multi-plan policyholders, it's direct response advertising for trading-up to a higher value insurance plan.

Old dog's die early - so learn new marketing tricks

These are simple solutions that have the compelling logic of naturally occurring segmentation. While simple, they are not easy for insurance companies to accept. Insurance agents have gotten used to targeting and selling mainly to their "warm" market of relatives and friends. The idea of direct response advertising as a strategy for penetrating niche and database market segments is alien to them. As one insurance man said: "I'm still meeting my sales quota. So why switch to an untried new trick?"

Send comments and questions that you would like answered in this column to: MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com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The Insured Segment 16%
Lapsed policy holding segment
Mono-plan policy holding segment
Multi-plan policy holding segment
Target Segment Behavior
Enroll into the insured segment
Re-instate into the actively insured
Convert to multiple plan segment
Maintain/ trade-up to higher value
Suitable Advertising Campaign
Mass media ad to enroll
Direct response ad to re-instate
Direct response ad to convert
Direct response ad to trade-up.

Bottling and canning a restaurant's success

From page B2-1

tablished a reputation of serving delicious home-cooked all-Pinoy dishes. Loyal patrons could not get enough of it, and they often ordered take-out meals either for themselves or as *"pasalubong"* (gift). Soon, everyone, especially balikbayans wanted to take the Barrio Fiesta flavor with them anywhere. This paved the way for canning venture—make Barrio Fiesta's dishes available anytime, anywhere.

In 1997, Barrio Fiesta ventured into full-scale processing of ready-to-eat meals.

Barrio Fiesta's Kalderetang Baka, Pork Adobo, Bistek Tagalog, and Guisadong Giniling, cooked in traditional Barrio Fiesta recipes, became available in *de lata*. Other ready-to-eat variety like Dinuguan, Bopis, Kalderetang Baka and Menudo were processed without preservatives. Bottled anchovies, natural fruit juices and canned meat have also been added to the list of products exported to Taiwan, India and Japan.

Barrio Fiesta canned products received a warm welcome in the local and international market.

"We put premium in our products, and we're proud to say that our brand doesn't cut corners on quality," Tolentino said. "Quality has always been our topmost priority."

Going big time in quality control

Quality is always strictly observed in the canning and bottling of BFMC products especially when it comes to the selection of ingredients. It also takes extra care in the products' cooking time, one of the factors that make a difference in keeping the contents of every product fresh; and the use of the natural preservatives that maintain the shelf life of Barrio Fiesta products.

The company hopes to improve competitiveness in the local and international markets by further developing its food processing.

BFMC COO Vivien Tolentino

Aware of the stringent international standards in food export and its concern on quality and food safety, the company has made a considerable investment in its manufacturing facilities and equipment. This required a particularly large cash outlay that seemed almost insurmountable until Planters Development Bank (Plantersbank) came into the picture. According to BFMC, Plantersbank was no doubt instrumental in enhancing the company's competitive edge.

With the investment, BFMC hopes to extend its export business in other countries especially Europe, where a huge market of Pinoy immigrants still remains untapped.

BFMC is confident that the canned food manufacturing industry in the country will continue to see many more opportunities for improvement and competition with foreign brands. With what it has accomplished, it only proves that Pinoy taste has the potential to become a global flavor.

Cater to 1.5B customers: Export halal food

From page B2-1

accomplished this last January.

Then in April the Mindanao Food Congress called on the government to turn Mindanao into the production base for halal food. President Macapagal-Arroyo warmed to the idea and asked some departments to submit a joint recommendation on the matter.

Consultations on the standards were held in the middle of 2002. On the legal front, Sulu Rep. Hussin U. Amin has filed a bill to set up the Philippine Halal Certification and Accreditation System.

Mindanao as food basket

Mindanao is the logical choice as the halal base. Over the past few years, Mindanao has seen constant growth in its exports of pineapple, banana, and tuna. The island also exports coconut products, mango, okra, and asparagus.

Public and private sector leaders should push halal and try to extract the most benefit from it for the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. ARMM has traditionally exported raw agricultural products (though it surprised observers by selling $ 3 million in clothing in 2002). Halal food processing would create many jobs in that poverty-afflicted region.

Marketing support needed

Once halal production hums at full gear, the government should coordinate marketing efforts. One avenue is to tap overseas Filipino workers. The hordes of Filipinos in the Middle East should be recruited as a marketing bridge to these countries. In Saudi Arabia alone, there are 950,000 Filipino workers.

The state would also do well to form a database or directory of firms that produce and/or export halal food. Better yet if the list is posted on a government website, probably in the export section of the Department of

Trade and Industry. For example, Australia's Victoria state runs a database that covers 47 halal companies.

Such a website will show which Filipino companies are truly certified. It will provide a simple port of entry, enabling foreign importers to hunt for Philippine sources. And it will help reveal export gaps and opportunities. *Comments to <darroyo@ philonline.com>*

On taxes and adoption

By Fidela Isip-Reyes
SGV & Co

TAX-FILES

NOTHING is certain but death and taxes. Of the two, taxes happen annually. —Joel Fox

US Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. once said, "Taxes are what we pay for civilized society". It appears Republic Act 8525, otherwise known as the "Adopt-A School Act of 1988", is out to prove Sir Oliver wrong.

Undeniably, education is a preeminent and expensive concern in the attainment of a civilized society. Republic Act 8525 addresses this by providing taxpayers with a rich source of tax incentives while at the same time providing quality and relevant education to the Filipino youth. How?

This is done by granting tax deductions to private individuals and entities that assist a private school, whether elementary, secondary or tertiary, particularly those in poverty-stricken provinces. Consequently, instead of having to pay taxes to attain a civilized society, taxpayers are treated to a deduction.

The objectives of the "Adopt-A-School Program" include the development of the school's staff and faculty; construction of facilities; upgrading of existing facilities; provision of books, publications and other instructional materials; and modernization of instructional technologies.

In fine, the "Adopt-A-School Program" encourages private initiative to support public education by providing tax incentives.

The procedure behind this program is relatively simple. It begins with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) where the private person or entity, either resident or nonresident, adopts a school. The MOA is executed by the private person or entity and the head of the school being adopted, and should specify the terms and conditions of the adoption and the tasks and responsibilities of the parties.

The donation/assistance may be in the form of, but not limited to, infrastructure, teaching and skills development, learning support, computer and science laboratories, and food and nutrition.

The MOA is subject to review and approval of the Superintendent of Schools of the province or district concerned. It shall last for at least two years with possibility of extension. It can be shortened, though, in cases where the adopting entity is dissolved before the end of the period, or otherwise earlier terminated (e.g., where the school board recommends to the Coordinating Council the termination of the adoption).

Incentives

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has also issued Revenue Regulations 10-2003, to implement the tax incentives provided for in RA 8525. These rules provide that a pre-qualified adopting private entity that enters into an Agreement with a public school, shall be exempt from donor's tax, and can claim a deduction from gross income the amount of contributions/donations that were actually, directly and exclusively incurred for the Program, subject to limitations, conditions and rules set forth in Section 34(H) of the Tax Code, plus an additional amount equivalent to 50 percent of such contributions/donations subject to the following conditions:

(1) That the deduction shall be availed of in the taxable year in which the expenses have been paid or incurred;

(2) That the taxpayer can substantiate the deduction with sufficient evidence, such as official receipts or delivery receipt and other adequate records ?

(2.1) The amount of expenses being claimed as deduction;

(2.2) The direct connection or relation of the expenses to the adopting private entity's participation in the Adopt-a-School Program. The adopting private entity shall also provide a list of projects and/or activities undertaken and the cost of each undertaking, indicating in particular where and how the assistance has been utilized as supported by the Agreement; and

(2.3) Proof or acknowledgment of receipt of the contributed/donated property by the recipient public school.

(3) That the application, together with the approved Agreement endorsed by the National Secretariat, shall be filed with the Revenue District Office (RDO) having jurisdiction over the place of business of the donor/adopting private entity, copy furnished the RDO having jurisdiction over the property, if the contribution/ donation is in the form of real property.

In the case of local donations to public schools of goods or properties originally intended for sale by the adopting private entity, the donation shall be considered as a deemed sale subject to VAT. The donor/ adopting private entity is, however, entitled to claim the available input tax subject to the rules on allocation among taxable sales, zero-rated sales and exempt sales.

On the other hand, the donee-public school, shall be deemed as the final consumer/end-user, and therefore, not entitled to any input VAT. If the local donation is not considered as a "transaction deemed sale," then the transfer of the goods or properties to the public school shall be exempt from VAT. In the case of foreign donations to public schools, the VAT and excise tax, (if any), on the importation of goods shall be assumed by the Department of Education (DepEd), or Commission on Higher Education (CHED), or Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), as the case may be, who will become the consignee or the importer thereof, unless of course where the importation is exempt from VAT under Section 109 of the Tax Code.

Valuation of donation

The assistance, contribution or donation in cash shall be valued based on the actual amount contributed/donated appearing in the official receipt issued by the donee.

In case of a contribution or donation other than money, the following rules shall be observed:

(i) Personal property. If the contribution or donation is in the form of personal property, the amount of the contribution or donation shall be based on the acquisition cost of the said assistance or contribution.

However, if the said property had already been used, then such valuation shall take into consideration the depreciated value of the property.

(ii) Consumable goods. If the assistance is in the form of consumable goods, the amount of the contribution or donation shall be based on the acquisition cost by the donor or the actual cost thereof at the time of the donation, whichever is lower.

(iii) Services. If the assistance is in the form of services, the amount of the contribution or donation shall be based on the value of the services rendered as agreed upon by the donor and the service provider and the public school as fixed in the MOA, or the actual expenses incurred by the donor, whichever is lower.

(iv) Real property. If the assistance is in the form of real property, the amount of the contribution or donation shall be the zonal value or the book value/depreciated value of the property, whichever is lower. Appraisal increase or appreciation in the value of the asset recorded in the books of accounts should not be considered in computing the book value of the asset.

In order to avail of the tax incentives provided for under RR 10-2003, the following procedures and requirements should be complied with:

(a) National Secretariat shall endorse to the Revenue District Office of the BIR having jurisdiction over the place of business of the adopting private entity, copy furnished the RDO having jurisdiction over the property if the donation or contribution is in the form of real property), the following:

(i) Duly notarized/approved MOA,

(ii) Duly notarized Deed of Donation,

(iii) Official receipts or any document showing the actual value of the contribution/ donation;

(iv) Certificate of Title and Tax Declaration, if the donation is in the form of real property; and

(v) Other adequate records showing the direct connection or relation of the expenses being claimed as deduction/donation to the adopting private entity's participation in the Program, as well as showing or proving receipt of the donated property.

(b) For entitlement to the additional 50% special deduction from the gross income, and for exemption from donor's tax the adopting private entity shall submit the application to the RDO having jurisdiction over the place of business of the adopting private entity, copy furnished the RDO having jurisdiction over the donated real property.

Indeed, Republic Act 8525 proves that it is better to give, than to receive.

PHOTOS BY TARA KATHERINE YAP/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

THE JACUZZI shows trappings of improvement for a venture that started with a few beds and beanbags.

THE MASSAGE rooms of Spa Rivera are minimalist but comfortable

Single mom rises . . .

From page B2-4

what gave birth to the spa concept in the first place. And its extension three years after.

In 1998, with a 6-year-old daughter and two brothers to feed; and a seriously ill father (her mother passed away seven years ago), Rivera surrendered her life to God and made it a point to correct her mistakes and make something out of herself.

A fitness buff and part-time instructor at a gym in her college days, Rivera taught three sessions of tae-bo in a day and then rushed off to do her telemarketing and home service for the beauty line she was selling, sometimes tagging along her daughter.

"*Pudpud ang shoes ko* (the soles of my shoes were worn out). My only goal then was to survive," says Rivera whose entrepreneur-parents, prior to sickness and the demise of their pension house and restaurant business, provided her and her siblings the best things in life.

It was during her home service of free hand massage for the beauty line and marketing gimmick of "money back" when her clients suggested that she put up a spa with aromatherapy, which was then starting to be a hit in Manila.

With some of her savings from her beauty line business and from what she could get from pre-selling and membership, Rivera rented the fourth floor of AJL Building for P8,000 a month and paid two months advance rent.

"We had no sala set, no air-con; just beds and beanbags. It was just enough for us to start," says Rivera whose first employees were three women and a man who gave massage services.

A physical therapist and reflexologist later trained them in massage techniques as well as facials.

Spa Rivera's first clients were the people she had befriended and serviced at the time she was into selling beauty products. Then word spread about the "unpretentious spa."

Rivera herself supplemented the "word of mouth" advertising by getting new clients' telephone numbers and updating them on discounts and new services.

To get more clients, Rivera sold pre-paid cards worth P500 that entitled the holder to full services of body massage, facial, foot reflex and a hair scrub.

Getting right with God

"Life is a journey. And in every journey, we commit mistakes. I praise God for all these experiences for without it, I don't think I can manage the business properly," says Rivera.

She had a pastor come over for Bible studies with her staff and firmly believed in Matthew 6:33 which says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

By January 2003, a client said it would be a good idea to have a spa exclusively for males while the original spa would cater exclusively to females.

Rivera took the cue and started construction of the all-male spa last April 7, her birthday.

This June, Rivera says that after the staff training, both spas would be introducing products and services from Pevonia Botanica, one of the spa brands used by well-known spas all over the world as well as Sparoma Oils from Switzerland for aromatherapy.

"Our difference from other spas is that we believe in the power of touch and the traditional ways of helping people relax that is why we don't use machines," says Rivera who opts for fresh fruits and organic materials for facials and body scrubs.

Still under the conceptualization stage is "Little Bali," a tropical spa envisioned in a 13-hectare lot in Guimaras Island across the Iloilo Strait owned by Rivera's grandmother, which she hopes would become a reality in three years.

"I always hear Ilonggos and my clients wishing that there would be a picturesque but near place for them to relax and beautify themselves so I thought of giving them just that," says the business-savvy Rivera.

"God loves to buy low and sell high. Its really true, it happened to me," she adds.

Ask the big guys to build for the small

From page B2-4

operations in 1996. Over the years it has developed relationships with various sub-contractors and suppliers. Because of this, they enjoy big discounts which can lower the prices for the houses.

Second, the big realty outfits usually have two, three or more projects going on simultaneously. They thus get volume discounts. Also, the big contractors can adopt uniform specifications and then mass produce the common parts of the houses.

These will definitely lower their building costs some more.

The big companies like LPHI also generate more savings by doing jobs such as pre-cast cementing and pre-fabricating walls, roofing, paneling and the like on the project site instead of in the off-site locations of the manufacturing plants.

TEX building system

For the Riego de Dios housing project, for example, LPHI is employing the TEX building system. Under this, all panels and columns are manufactured by a plant erected on site. This minimizes transportation costs and delays.

The pre-cast components in their homes are highly flexible. This gives them a cost-saving option.

Under LPHI's TEX system, residents may reuse existing panels should they opt to expand their living quarters. This allows them to enjoy cost savings of 30 percent to 43 percent.

Expansions entail tearing down panels and other wall fixtures. Oftentimes, the torn down materials are damaged beyond further use. In homes with limited budgets, this is no small matter.

This is the advantage of hiring a contractor that is well capitalized. LPHI has a paid-up capital of P1.1 billion. It can summon resources that can make their housing project operations more efficient and more economical.

LPHI also has a credit line from Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Pinoys pay the price to have beautiful skin

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

JUST how much would a woman (or man) spend to have beautiful facial skin?

In the Philippines, about P100,000. And the amount goes to just products, no procedure is involved.

The product is called the Obagi Protocols. Its local distributor emphasizes that these should be treated as medicine because it is not available in traditional outlets for skin care products.

At the same time it should only be dispensed after a doctor sees the client.

In the country, nearly 4,000 men and women have spent at least P15,500 for a six-week regimen that is meant to "treat the skin inside out".

But a handful have already spent six figures for this.

Many balk at the price tag. But those who get hooked swallow the cost and become disciples.

A bank employee says her office mate told her "I feel naked" if she fails to apply her Obagi.

Belo Medical Group marketing manager Maradee de Guzman says they have clients who have already spent over P100,000 for Obagi products. These are the ones who become Gold card holders of the Obagi Circle of Friends.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Recognizing the steep price of the product, the Belo Medical Group, which sells the products, created the Obagi Circle, a marketing scheme that is meant to enable its regular users a chance to earn points every time they buy an Obagi product.

Or when they refer a friend to Obagi.

Each peso is worth one point and the points accumulated can earn rewards.

The Circle which is exclusive to Belo Medical patients already has 3,991 members. Growth has been in double digit figures the past years.

DR. Vicki Belo with Dr. Zein Obagi during his last visit to Manila a few months ago.

The Obagi Protocols System was created by Dr. Zein Obagi, a Lebanese-Syrian dermatologist who grew up in Brazil and who now lives in Beverly Hills.

The products were initally brought to the Philippines by a Filipino surgeon who recommended it to patients who had facelifts.

In 1997, when Obagi sold 75 percent of OMP Inc., his firm, the distributorship was opened.

Dermatologist Vicki Belo, through BCC, bid for it. She says there were other Chinese businessmen who wanted to get the distributorship but since she was a doctor she had an advantage.

"You have to understand that this is not cosmetics. You have to use the right dose," Belo explains.

Prior to her getting the distributorship, Belo says she had already been buying Obagi from the first distributor and was recommending it to her patients.

She says she truly believes in the product as so far it is the only one which has effectively addressed melasma or skin pigmentation.

Belo's financial director Joey Santos, says the potential market for Obagi in the Philippines is about two million.

This is based on those with monthly incomes of P30,000 to P45,000.

But Belo adds they have patients whose monthly pay is only half this and yet religiously buy Obagi.

And she points out ten percent of their users are actually men.

They have a substantial market of entertainers from Japan who use the products for their whole body as it has a whitening effect.

Some of them consume the six-week dosage allocation in only two weeks.

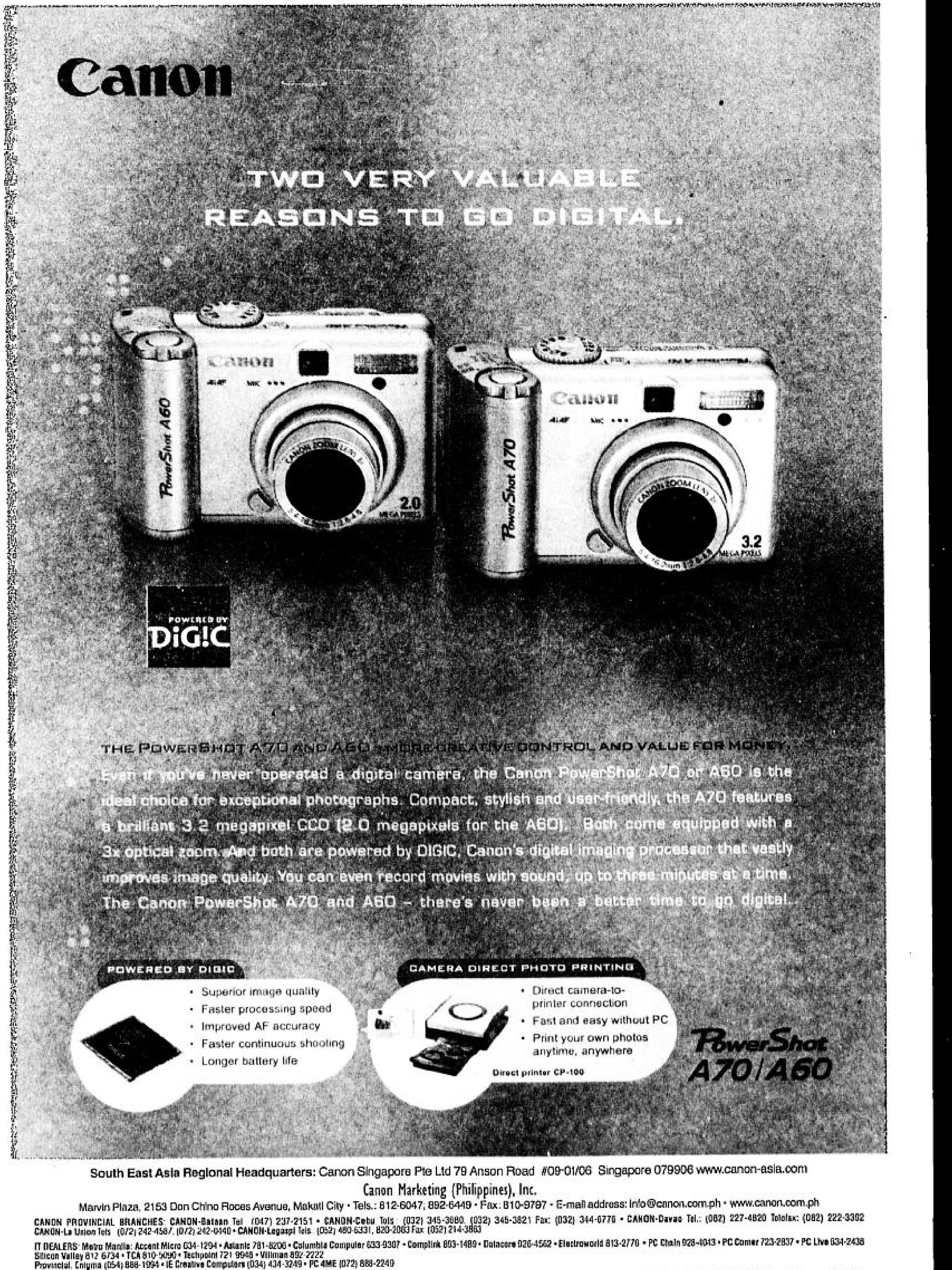
Recently, BCC has been marketing the line to dermatologists, who are really the main distribution target of OMP.

She says during the last visit of Dr. Obagi, she invited the local products to introduce the products.

The list of doctors who recommend the Obagi protocols are slowly growing.

Belo says she wants the demand of the product to be "patient-driven" -- that those who have tried the products will be the ones to ask their doctors about it.

The Obagi system states it "works on the surface to smooth roughness and correct damage, such as uneven skin tones and hyperpigmentation. It penetrates below the surface of the skin to stimulate proper cell renewal, improving circulating and helping restore the skin's natural moisture."



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BUSINESS Friday

Single mom rises from poverty by making folks relax

RIVERA

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Three years ago, spas were an alien, almost unwelcome concept in conservative Iloilo even as the idea of professional pampering for the body had already caught fire in Metro Manila.

The nearest thing to a decent spa here was found in the fitness centers of upscale hotels. The tired, world-weary Ilonggos simply called for their favorite *manoghilot* (local massage therapist) and then proceeded to the beauty parlor to complete the process of looking and feeling good.

In 2000, a 25-year-old single mother, herself newly orphaned, down on her luck, living in a dilapidated place and doing home service to sell a beauty line, stumbled on what could have taken expensive marketing research to discover—the Ilonggo middle class and even the provincial rich want to be pampered but are too shy to go to posh places where spas are normally found.

Now 28, Ana Marie "Babes" Y. Rivera, the owner of Spa Rivera, the fastest-growing spa for middle and working class Ilonggos, has a captive market which is "very unique and diversified and wants value for their money in unpretentious surroundings."

The look of Spa Rivera at the fourth floor of AJL Building on General Luna Street is minimalist—the floor is white and the walls and dividers are made of wood. Tea candles are scattered around.

Rivera says this is exactly the kind of ambiance that her clients feel comfortable in, as most of them come in informal getups or even house clothes.

Spa Rivera's prices are also suited for the middle class, meaning, almost half or even less than the rates at posh spas.

Since August 2000 when Spa Rivera opened, there has been no let-up in the stream of clients, which now includes Koreans on English studies, Japanese tourists and the occasional Manileño.

"We have a money-back guarantee if you do not like our services but so far, no one has asked for their money back since they come out smiling and happy," says Rivera who, on the first few months of Spa Rivera, acted as counter girl, did the facials, marketing and the laundry.

Rivera never tires of telling people about how she was virtually "nothing" and started from scratch even as she prepared for the June 15 inauguration of Spa Rivera's extension, a spa exclusively for males, at Jabez Building, also on General Luna Street.

Rivera, a mass communications graduate of St. Paul's College here has a knack for listening and applying her clients' suggestions to her business, which was

SINGLE/ B2-3

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Ask the big guys to build for the small

ECONOMIC projects can be done with better quality and for less cost by the big construction firms which specialize in expensive, prime location homes than by the small companies which cater to the small income home buyers.

The big firms plan their moves ahead much better. They can call on more resources for the job. They are well-capitalized and can therefore employ better techniques, better equipment and better quality supplies and materials.

Observers are taking a keen interest on what appears to be a determined move by Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. (LPHI), a member of the Ayala Group, to expand its foothold in what it describes as the economic housing part of the business.

LPHI recently won the bid to construct 1,300 homes for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) personnel. The project will include a community for the soldiers and their families complete with roads, water, sewage, lighting, anti-flood, security and other systems. LPHI will also put in a range of subdivision amenities including commercial areas, a public market, church and school areas, parks and playgrounds, public transportation and a clubhouse.

The project at Camp Riego de Dios in Cavite kicks off an ambitious long-range housing program for the AFP. Under the plan envisioned by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, the 13 other military bases around the country will have off-base subdivisions similar to Riego de Dios. The AFP will donate camp lands so that the soldier-beneficiaries need only to pay for their homes.

Reyes said that other camps are next on the line—Camp Servillano Aquino in Tarlac, which will have 5,000 units for soldiers/beneficiaries; Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental, 5,000 units; and the AFP Officers Village in Taguig, Rizal, 6,000 units.

When construction is completed in identified locations, including Camp Riego de Dios, some 17,000 soldiers and their families will benefit.

LPHI has 25 completed and ongoing projects all over the country. As of late last year, it had earned P5 billion in revenues.

Affordable houses

The question upper most in the minds of observers is how much will the houses cost.

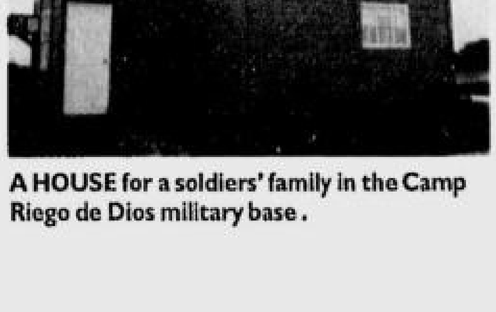
LPHI's Riego de Dios development offers five types of homes. Their are the three single detached models priced at P436,000, P563,000 and P676,000. The duplex model cost P376,000 and the townhouse, P258,000.

The soldier-beneficiaries can pay off their homes through Pag-Ibig at monthly rates ranging from P2,344 for the townhouse to P6,146 for the top single detached model. All the homes are two stories and sit on lot ranging in size from 42 square meters to 120 sq.m.

A recent market study reveals that LPHI houses and their prices compare favorably with similar-sized structures offered by other developers in other subdivisions within or just outside Metro Manila. Housing units similar to the P676,000 model at Riego de Dios, for instance, are priced higher at P800,000-P900,000. Townhouses similar in size to the P258,000 townhouse at Riego de Dios carry a price tag of P350,000-P500,000.

LPHI has built 7,200 homes since it began

ASK/ B2-3



A HOUSE for a soldiers' family in the Camp Riego de Dios military base.

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

Nora, Lolita, Susan in one film festival

'Ate' Guy to be directed again by Elwood Perez

AUNOR (in award-winning form in Joel Lamangan's "Flor Contemplacion Story"above) called Perez (left) just when the latter was proposing the movie project, which will also star Snooky Serna.

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

IT WILL be a three-way battle of icons in the Metro Manila Film Festival in December as superstar Nora Aunor is set to make a movie again after a four-year absence, and it will be directed by Elwood Perez, who also helmed some of her biggest commercial and critical hits.

The Nora-Elwood movie is Angora Films' P80-million production, "Bituin, Buwan at Araw," Perez himself told Inquirer Entertainment during the launch of the Metro Manila Film Festival Philippines (MMFFP) 2003 last Friday night at the PSE Auditorium at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

Also being fielded in the same festival are movies starring Lolita Rodriguez and Susan Roces.

Roces will headline Regal Entertainment's sequel to "Mano Po," to be directed by Erik Matti from a script by Roy Iglesias. The all-star cast also includes Christopher de Leon, Lorna Tolentino, Dina Bonnevie, Judy Ann Santos and Kris Aquino, who is the only member from the original cast.

Rodriguez will return to the movies with Viva Films' epic drama, "Filipinas," with Maricel Soriano. It will be directed by Joel Lamangan.

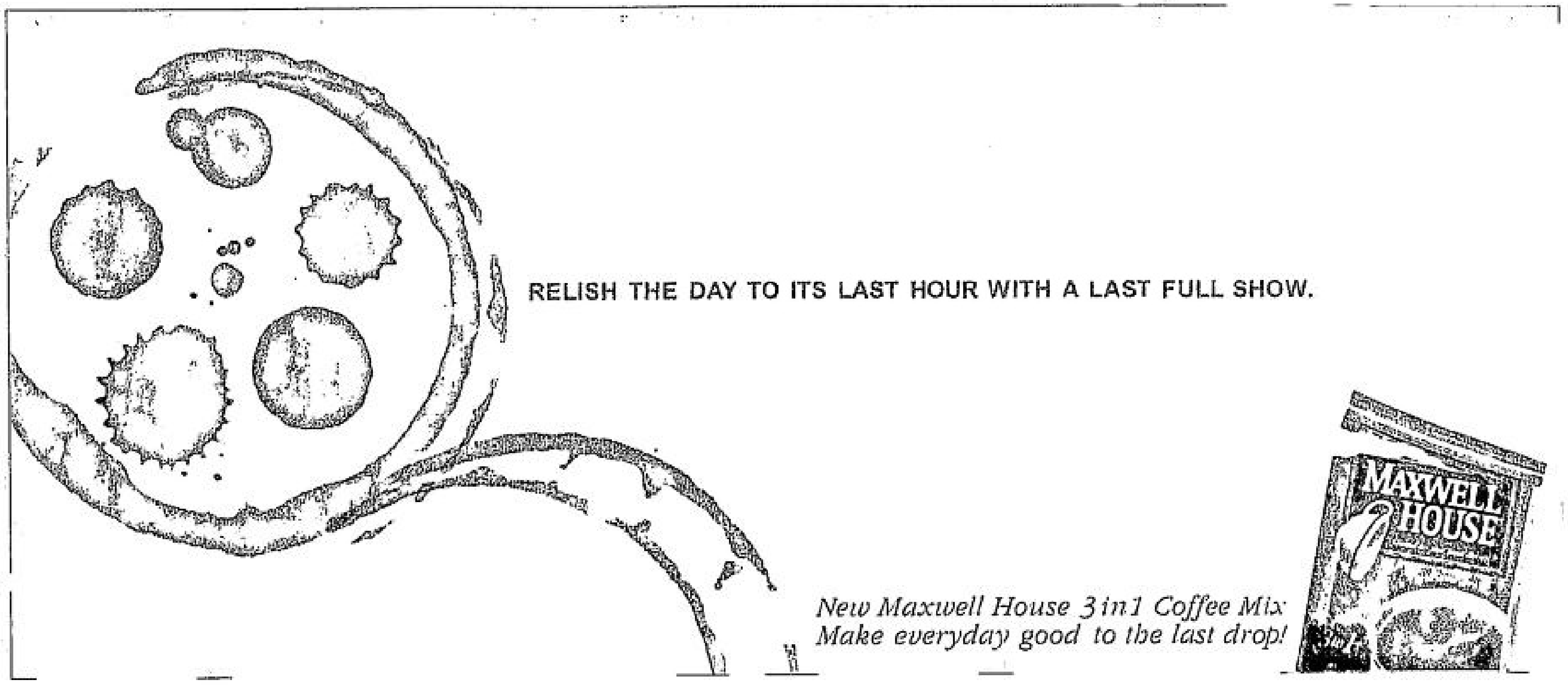
Aunor's "Bituin, Buwan at Araw" will also

NORA/ C2

DID YOU KNOW...

Model and TV host **Marc Nelson** has apparently not found a replacement for his former girlfriend, sexy star **Patricia Javier**. But last weekend, Marc was spotted in Boracay with a female companion, said to be a *balikbayan* friend visiting from Australia, where Marc grew up. Marc, who hosts ABS-CBN's "Sports Unlimited," recently made his first movie, the **Sharon Cuneta-Richard Gomez** starrer, "Walang Kapalit," directed by **Joel Lamangan.**

Samantha Chaves sings new tune /C3



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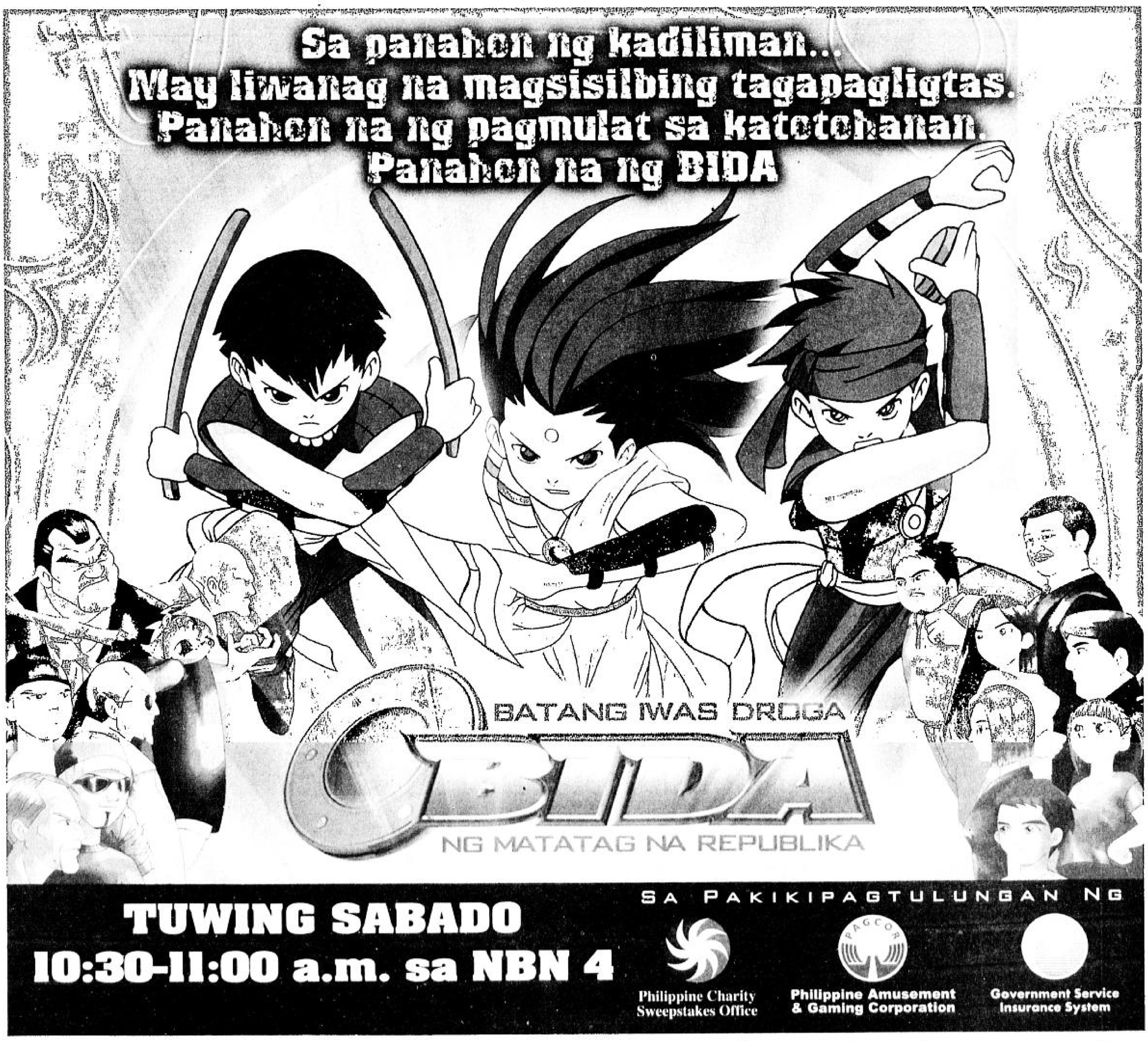

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Reluctant heir

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Sunday evening, many TV sets were tuned to Star World because the cable channel was telecasting a special on England's Prince William, who was marking his 21st birthday. The special was notable for its objectivity and lack of hype, despite the fact that its subject has been hailed as one of the most popular young men on the planet.

The very informative documentary revealed that Prince William is a decidedly reluctant heir to the British throne. He got his love for freedom from his mother, the late legendary Princess Diana, who regarded royalty as a burden, and the intense media scrutiny she was subjected to as a prison.

To Princess Di's credit, she tried to spare her two sons from the relentless media attention that she had to endure. But, when she and Prince Charles separated, there was nothing she could do to salve their hurt feelings.

The special showed Prince William's common touch by way of a lengthy portion that covered the period in his life when he joined other youths in building homes for the homeless. He was shown working from morning till night, lifting heavy weights and performing the most menial chores with generosity and boundless good spirit.

Another interesting portion focused on his relationship with young women, without stooping to gossip and excessive voyeurism.

All in all, the documentary painted an upbeat portrait of a prince who, should he become king, could be the most democratic monarch England shall have ever known.

At the end of the special on Prince William, a thought struck us: His younger brother Prince Harry who was featured in a number of sequences in last Sunday's documentary, deserves to become the subject of a special of his own. Maybe next year?

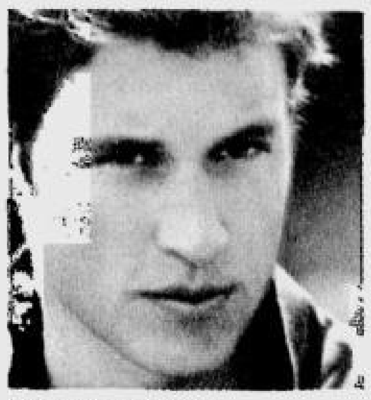
Art auction and raffle

At 6 p.m., today, June 27, an art auction and raffle will be held at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Hall in Forbes Park, Makati City. The event, Sining Pamana, is billed as the legacy of Philippine Arts for Nation Building and Spiritual Transformation.

It is presented by Sinag Tala in cooperation with Metro Gallery, for the benefit of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Canlaon, Negros Oriental; Nuestra Senora de Buensuceso in Guinhulngan, Negros Oriental; Spousal of Jesus and Mary in Buntatala, Jaro, Iloilo; and St. John Mary Vianney Seminary in San Carlos City in Negros Occidental.

A donation of P5,000 entitles the donor to an auction ticket for art masterpieces, cocktails and one free painting by respected painters from the Tuesday Artists Group, the Art Association of the Philippines, Vigan Artists, Negros Artists, Bulacan Artists, Foot and Mouth Artists, Orchidarium group, Angono Atelier, and other artists' groups.

Call Martin Lopez at 0918Xintala, 726-1297 or 0917-8971567.



PRINCE WILLIAM

Feedback

An irate viewer cautions the news departments of TV channels to be more objective not just in their reportage but also in the selection or non-selection of items to be highlighted on their nightly newscasts.

She cites two contrasting instances: First, the non-inclusion of the report on the raid on the security agency of a politician's brother; and second, what she feels is the excessive coverage of Bishop Bacani's case ("after 10 days, headline *pa ba yon?*")

The concerned viewer said she called the news director of one of the channels in question, but he didn't address her complaint. She urges TV news people not to have hidden agendas in their works, because viewers are watching and know when things are not right on TV.

If some TV news people persist in being subjective in their work, perceptive viewers will deem them and their newscasts biased and unreliable and will choose to view other news programs.

UST concert

TENOR **Abdul Candaon** will perform at UST at 6:30 p.m., today, June 27, in "An Evening of Song." The concert also features pianists Najib Ismail, and is a presentation of the UST Conservatory of Music Alumni Association. Proceeds will go to the association's scholarship funds for deserving music students. Cal 731-4022.

"QUEEN" Susan, with husband Fernando Poe Jr. last March.

CHITO VECINA

Nora, Lolita, Susan...

From page C1

star soap opera mainstay Snooky Serna, who also hasn't done a movie for a quite a while, as well as Aiza Seguerra and a host of former child stars, according to director Perez.

He said auditions would soon be conducted for young actors who would portray Aunor's character as a 12-year-old.

Both Aunor and Serna have been notorious for not showing up or for being very slow workers. Apparently to show they are serious about the new movie, both actresses attended the launch. The Superstar was particularly perky that night, in contrast to her somber all-black Versace outfit.

Perez declined to reveal the film's storyline, saying instead that it would be a "fiesta extravaganza for the family, with a tagline: Make Your Dreams Come True."

Aunor and Perez earlier collaborated on such movies as "Lollipops and Roses and Burong Talangka," "Mahal Mo, Mahal Ko," "Till We Meet Again," "I Can't Stop Loving You," "Bilangin Ang Bituin sa Langit" and "Ang Totoong Buhay Ni Pacita M."

The new movie would also be an intergenerational and character-driven movie, said the veteran director who made a successful comeback this year with "Lupe" and "Shhh, She Walks By Night," starring sexy newcomers Andrea del Rosario and Belinda Bright, respectively.

"Bituin, Buwan at Araw" is just one of the 33 productions vying for a slot in the annual film festival. This year, 10 movies would be chosen as official entries, with the first seven debuting on Dec. 25 and the last three on Jan. 1, 2004, according to MMFFP officials Robert C. Nacianceno and Robert Rivera.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, who's also the overall chair of MMFFP, encouraged the producers and-artists present during the launch to inject the ideals of urbanity into the filmfest theme. The festival vice chair, Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo, earlier announced the theme as "Kultura at Turismo: Kayamanan ng Lahing Pilipino."

Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon noted that last year's festival earned P355 million. He challenged the organizers to earn the same figure this year — but in dollars.

"I didn't intend to do something for the film fest," said Perez. "One day I bumped into Attorney Gaudioso Manalo, an up-and-coming movie mogul, at the MTRCB office. I told him, *"Bakit 'di niyo 'ko kinukuha?* Because I'm expensive?"

Manalo also produced "Tampisaw," the movie that gave Aleck Bovick her controversial Famas best actress award earlier this year.

Perez said Manalo rejected his first proposal.

"But he loved the second one," he added. "And you know what? I was talking to him when I got a call from *Ate* Guy!"

Aunor has been a perennial participant in the Metro Manila film fest. She has won six best actress awards for "Ina Ka ng Anak Mo," 1979; "Himala," 1982; "Bulaklak ng City Jail," 1984; "Andrea, Paano Ba ang Maging Isang Ina," 1990; "Ang Totoong Buhay ni Pacita M.," 1991; and "Muling Umawit ang Puso," 1995. She also won one best-performer trophy for 1978's "Atsay," besting her rival Vilma Santos who starred in Brocka's "Rubia Servios."

Aunor was last seen in Joel Lamangan's "Sidhi" in 1991, with Albert Martinez and Glydel Mercado.

Last May 17, she celebrated her 50th birthday with a concert at the Araneta Coliseum that coincided with the conclusion of her top-rating teleserye, "Bituin."

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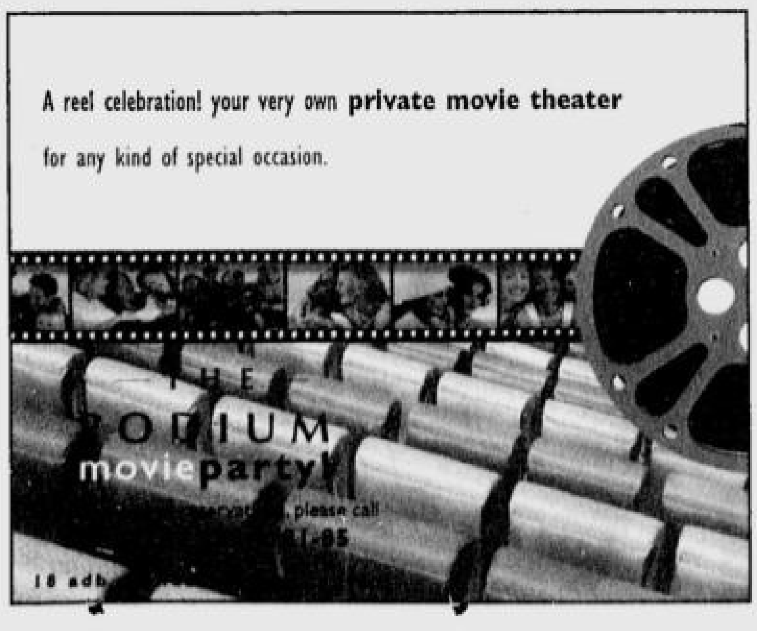

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Ali 3	BERTUD NG PUTIK
Ali 4	THE HULK
Ali 5	THE HULK
Ali 6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
Ali 7	TANGING INA
ARANETA COLISEUM	
June 27	GMA AT 53 ANNIVERSARY
June 28	NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES
June 29	PBA GAMES
July 5	MARTIN/REGINE - REPEAT
July 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
July 13 & 17	UAAP GAMES
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
B	SANIB
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-61 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-2	PAKNERS
CINEMA-3	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULK
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	MATRIX - RELOADED
CINEMA-8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SANIB
CINEMA-12	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-14	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-15	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA 2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA 3	HULK
CINEMA 4	SANIB
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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INQUIRER

Samantha still singing, to a different tune

By Leah Salterio

YESTERDAY

SAMANTHA Chavez tasted fame when she burst into the music scene in 1990 and became a solo artist after she was discovered by pop diva Kuh Ledesma.

Samantha had auditioned for Kuh's concert at the Music Museum and was introduced on stage for the first time, together with fellow new singers Lyon Roque, Rica Arambulo and Viktoria. That performance paved the way to the big time.

Kuh took Samantha under her wings and made her a frontliner of the Metropolis Band. But soon, Samantha started her own solo career. She recorded a couple of albums which spawned hit singles, and she brought honor to the country when she won in international song festivals abroad.

Samantha bested representatives from 10 other countries to win the grand prize in the 6th International Midnight Sun Song Festival in Lahti, Finland in 1994. Her winning songs were "One Dream, One Love," composed by Vehnee Saturno, and the Finnish number "Huomiseen (Hold Me Now)," re-arranged by Archie Castillo, who also bagged the award for best arrangement of a Finnish song.

Samantha also brought home the top trophy from the 7th Asean Songfest in Jogjakarta, Indonesia.

Her debut album, "From the Heart," from Universal Records, included "The Truth," the carrier single written and arranged by Mike Feist, an infectious dance number with Jamaican reggae artist Poor Man, who did reggae rap in the single. The album also produced a hit ballad, Jade Nicdao's "Pakiusap Ko." Nicdao also wrote the 1995 Awit Awards best movie theme, "Nagkataon, Nagkatagpo," which Samantha recorded for the Maricel Soriano-Rudy Fernandez starrer, and included in "From the Heart."

Happy marriage

Samantha also displayed her songwriting skills in "From the Heart." She wrote with Feist the catchy pop tune, "Angel of My Heart."

Her second album, "Love Me, Samantha," contained "An Unexpected Song," a duet with multi-awarded singer-songwriter Jose Mari Chan, and a revival of the Everly Brothers hit, "Unchained Melody."

However, despite all her achievements, Samantha didn't think twice when she decided to leave the limelight after she married Rino Que in 1994. She calls it a whirlwind romance, since they had been sweethearts for only six months when they tied the knot on Dec. 29, 1994.

After eight years, Samantha calls her marriage happy and blissful. They have a son, Mark Allen, 7, whom her husband named after popular American football player Marcus Allen. The boy is a second grader at Brent School in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Samantha is expecting her second baby in September. She will give birth at the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa.

"We prayed for a girl and He answered our prayers," Samantha said. "We can't complain anymore."

Worship leader

A Born-Again Christian, Samantha admits that she initially had to struggle after she stopped singing.

"The first year was really hard," she said. "After the second year, I wanted to go back to singing. But I guess you go through a period of adjustment when you're catapulted to a different stage in life. I realized that God had wanted me to be in a different race."

Samantha hasn't stopped singing, though. This time, she sings in churches, campus outreach programs, evangelist crusades and gospel concerts. Before she became pregnant for the second time, Samantha was the worship leader at the Victory Christian Fellowship Church in Ayala Alabang. Other celebrities who attend the church are Franco and Ayen Laurel, Luchi of Passage Band, Barbie Almabis of Barbie's Cradle, Vina Morales and former Mojofly lead singer Kitchie Nadal.

"I used to have no contentment in facing a big audience and being applauded by a lot of people," Samantha said. "I guess that also happens to a lot of stars.

"But I realized now this is what God wants me to do," she says of her current kind of music. "This is my purpose. This is my conviction. That stopped me from seeking my place in the show biz limelight. I don't miss anything anymore in show biz. I'm also lucky because I've been blessed with a very patient husband."

No turning back

Samantha first met Rino in 1991, through TV director Leo Katigbak, on the set of the late-night program, "Oh No, It's Johnny!"

"I was promoting the song 'Laging Ikaw,' the second cut in my album, and Rino was visiting from the States and wanted to oversee a local TV production," she shared. "In 1993, I saw him again in San Francisco, where he was part of the Independence Day concert production for the Filipino community. In December that year, he packed his bags and left the US to settle in Manila.

"That was when he started to pursue me. We became friends first, and in mid-1994, we became sweethearts. He never returned to the US. He grew up there but he gave up his life and his job there to be with me."

Samantha says she doesn't regret that her singing career has taken a back seat to her married life. After the first baby, she and her husband produced the debut album of the group Afterschool, titled "Sleeping With the Lights On," distributed by BMG Records Pilipinas. The LP had 10 original cuts written by the group's keyboardist Rommel Carrera.

Samantha says she is planning to record an all-Gospel album after giving birth in September. She will give it to her former record producer, Bella Tan, for distribution.

No regrets

The youngest in a brood of 10, Samantha, fondly called "Inday" in her family, was born in the town of Sagay, about two hours away by car from Bacolod. Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez is her elder brother.

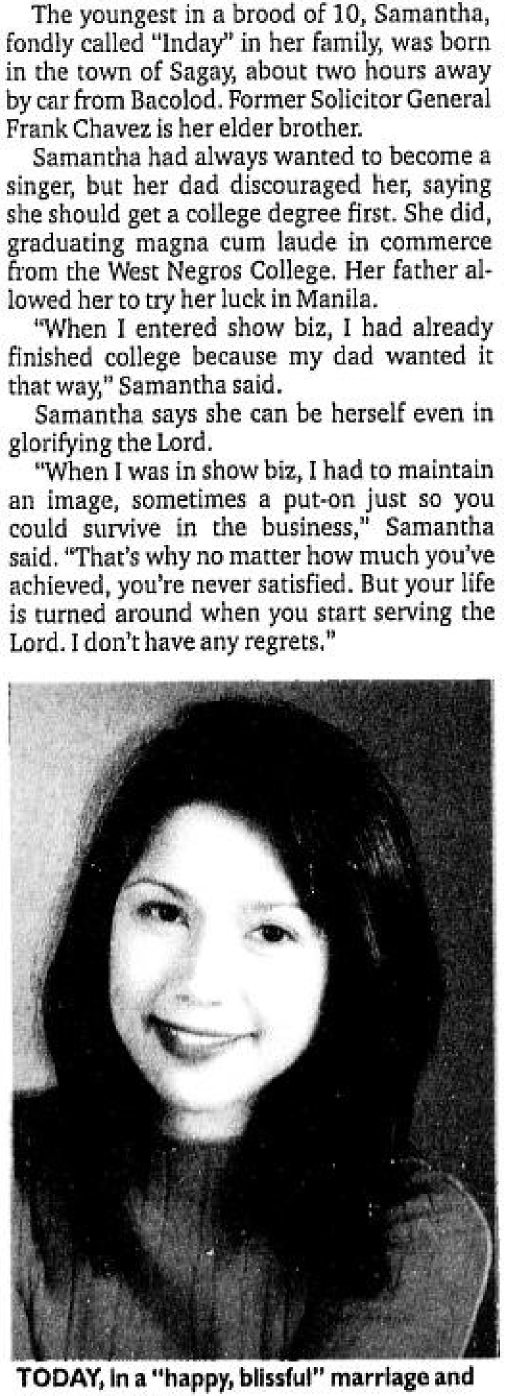
Samantha had always wanted to become a singer, but her dad discouraged her, saying she should get a college degree first. She did, graduating magna cum laude in commerce from the West Negros College. Her father allowed her to try her luck in Manila.

"When I entered show biz, I had already finished college because my dad wanted it that way," Samantha said.

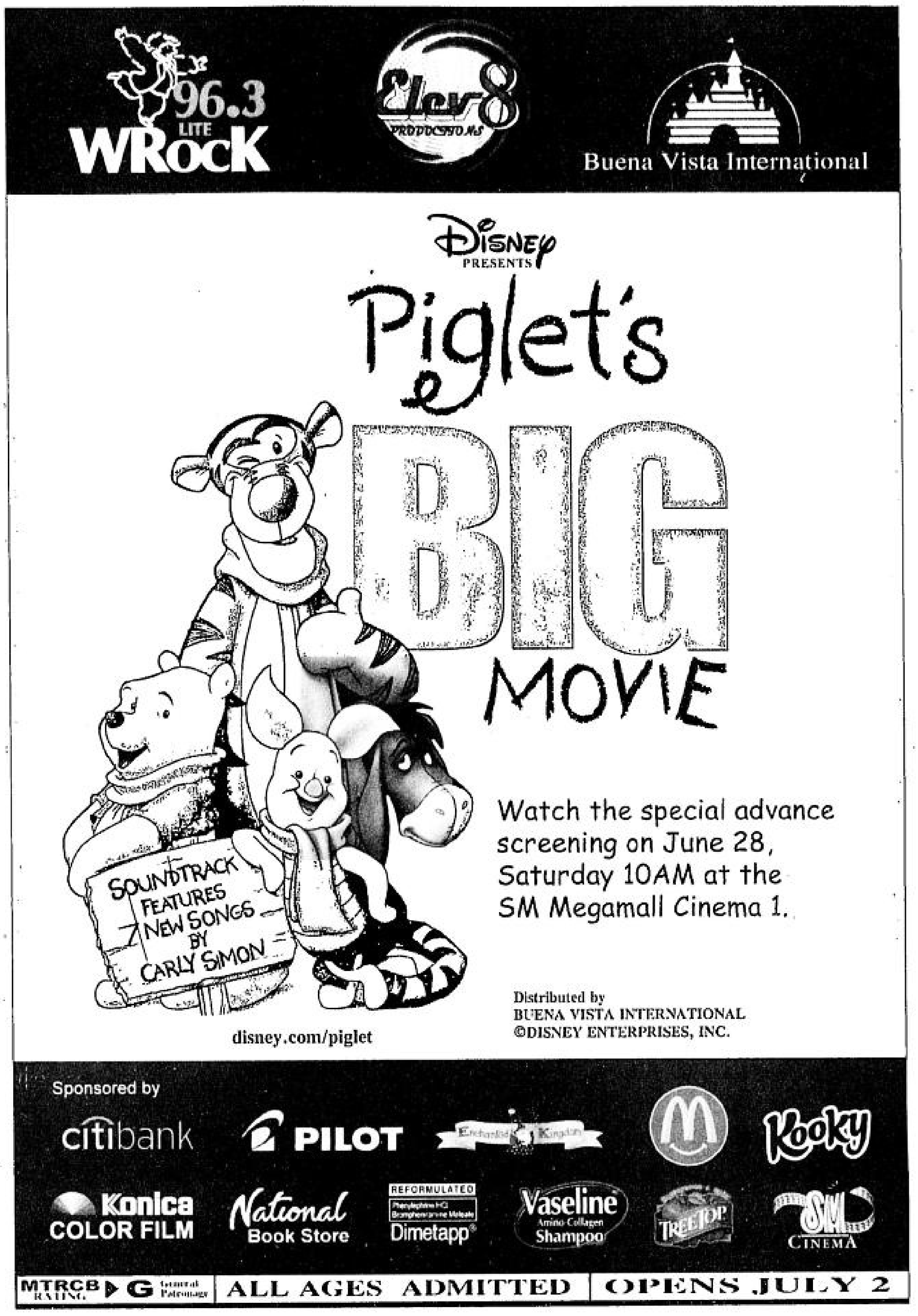
Samantha says she can be herself even in glorifying the Lord.

"When I was in show biz, I had to maintain an image, sometimes a put-on just so you could survive in the business," Samantha said. "That's why no matter how much you've achieved, you're never satisfied. But your life is turned around when you start serving the Lord. I don't have any regrets."

CHAVEZ as a recording artist in the '90s



TODAY, in a "happy, blissful" marriage and with a "purpose"



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How to Join
Entry forms are available at all SM Cinema snack bars from June 10 to June 25. Interested groups must submit a fully accomplished entry form together with a demo tape containing the group's rendition of the Munting Tinig Theme". (Musical piece is attached to the entry form.)

Judging
All submitted entry forms/tapes will be screened by Home Radio where 10 finalists will be selected. During the finals (July 5) the 10 finalists will be judged according to their overall stage presence, voice quality, presentation and creativity.

See posters for more details!

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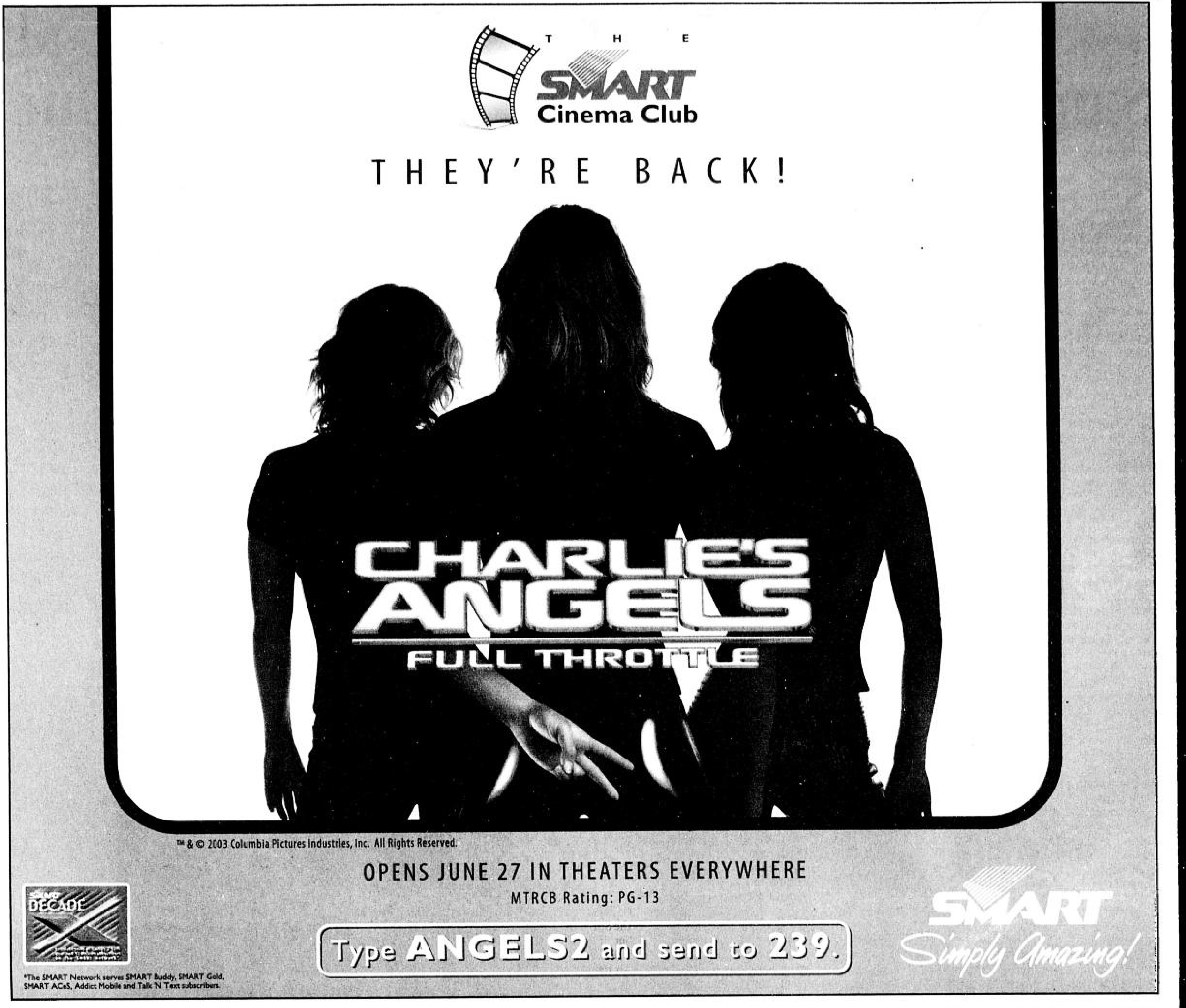

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Different Strokes for different listeners

By April Timbol Yap
Contributor

SHOW TIME

"ARE you doing the suicide song'?"

The singer looked a bit startled, and then he started to laugh. "I'm not sure," he said. "Maybe not tonight."

It occurred to me that he was perplexed that I remembered that phrase. I first heard it November 2002. We were in Baguio for a week and spent every evening at Pilgrim's Cafe, at the La Azotea building on Session Road. There we heard Ivan, the male vocalist of Different Strokes, announce that he was going to do his suicide song (I guess because it's really tough to sing and one could die in the attempt). He then proceeded to do a superb rendition of "Gethsemane" from "Jesus Christ Superstar."

I've heard Michael Ball, Ted Neeley, and Eugene Villaluz sing this song. Believe me, Ivan's version is right up there. Never was a suicide aborted so exquisitely.

I had discovered Pilgrim's the previous April. On the last night of a two-week stay in Baguio, somebody mentioned the music at Pilgrim's was good, so off a group of us went. Turned out "good" was quite the understatement. The music was terrific! There were two groups singing that night, On Call and Different Strokes, and both were excellent—-but being musical theater enthusiasts, we quickly became enamored with the repertoire of Different Strokes. So on our next trip, as soon as our dinner was over, we made a beeline for Pilgrim's Cafe. That's when we were treated to the suicide song.

Recently I was in Baguio again with friends and convinced them we just had to listen to Different Strokes. On stage, Ivan, Hershey, and Ro were on their usual stools and at the piano was Danny, their musical director.

We entered in the middle of the group's Ryan Cayabyab set. They were singing "Minsan ang Minahal Ay Ako" from the musical based on the life of Katy de la Cruz. Tip: When you listen to these guys, make sure you request this song.

The next set was their musical theater selection, and it simply blew us away. There was a string of well-loved songs including "All I Ask of You" and "Think of Me" (Ro's very own suicide song) from "Phantom of the Opera," "On My Own" from "Les Miserables," a haunting rendition of "I Don't Know How to Love Him" from "Jesus Christ Superstar," and a soulful version of "Memory" from "Cats." They did great numbers from other musicals like "Miss Saigon," "South Pacific," and "Jekyll and Hyde."

The highlight for me was a three-voice arrangement of "Unexpected Song" from "Song and Dance." They capped the set with a fabulous upbeat performance of "Seasons of Love" from "Rent."

During the break, I got to talk to the group. After a little chat and a short e-mail interview, I learned more about them.

Ivan and Ro are voice teachers at Musar. Hershey is a fresh graduate from Saint Louis University. Danny is an incoming composition student at the UP College of Music.

I asked Danny about their dreams as a group. His reply:

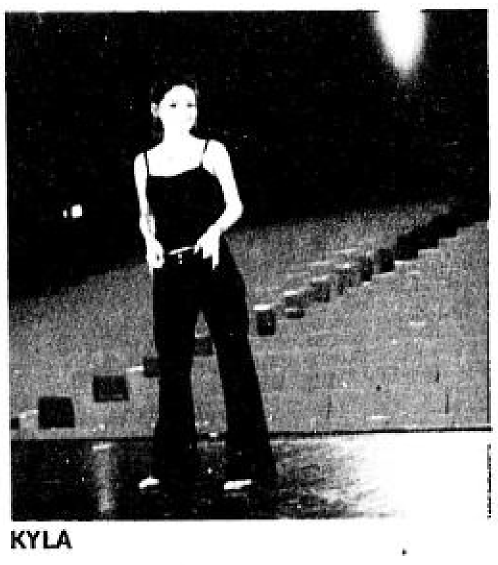
"We intend to let people appreciate theater music. It's deep and full of emotion. We want to make at least a little difference to the trend (because) Broadway is less familiar than jazz, classical, pop, and other genres of music."

If there's any group that can make that difference, Different Strokes is it. The good news for us in Manila is that they plan to move and bring their music here. While there are no final plans, most likely they will be performing in the Katipunan-Blue Ridge area.

You can email Danny at *danny-imson@yahoo.com* to find out where and when you can catch this superb musical group. They're worth every listening minute.

DIFFERENT as one: (from left) Ro, Ivan, Danny and Hershey.

Kyla, Luke at Hard Rock



KYLA

TWO of the brightest R&B stars perform in "No Curfew Nights—Kyla and Luke Mejares: Back 2 Back" at the Hard Rock Cafe tomorrow night, June 28.

The concert is presented by BlueStar Events Inc., Hard Rock Cafe and Citizen Cai Watches.

Kyla was the 2001 MA Pilipinas Awards' best new artist when she won six Awit Awards, including Best New Female Artist. Her breakthrough hit was "Hanggang Ngayon."

Luke got his first big break when he was recruited to front for South Border. He went solo and has performed with some of the music industry's most respected luminaries. He was commissioned to cover the Close-Up hit "Just a Smile Away" that was used to launch a compilation album celebrating the toothpaste brand's 75 years.

His first solo album is scheduled for release by the third quarter of this year.

Gabby Eigenmann is their special guest in "No Curfew Nights—Kyla and Luke Mejares: Back 2 Back." The show is directed by G. B. Sampedro.

Tickets are priced at P400, inclusive of two standard drinks. For inquiries and reservations, call Hard Rock Cafe, 893-4661 to 64, or Dom at (0916)740-8325.

'Kontrobersyal' ba talaga 'yan?'

By Anne Francia A. Torres
Contributor

SATURDAY night, 10:55 p.m. My cell phone rang. It was Boy Abunda.

"Guess where I am, Anne?" said Boy. "I was on Roxas Boulevard and couldn't get home on time so I rented a hotel room so I could watch our show."

It was the 7th episode of "Kontrobersyal" and our topic was the man who could cleave this country's opinions along class lines, Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

When Patrick Paez, senior manager for ABS-CBN Current Affairs investigative programs and currently our supervising producer, conceptualized "Kontrobersyal," it was with the idea that there was room for another honest-to-goodness magazine show even on a Saturday night. "Kontrobersyal" airs at 10:30 p.m.

"Kontrobersyal" talks about controversial people whether they are in show business or politics, controversial events, even controversial places. To distinguish "Kontrobersyal" from the station's other magazine shows, segment producers and researchers measure a story pitch with this basic question: *Kontrobersyal ba 'yan?*

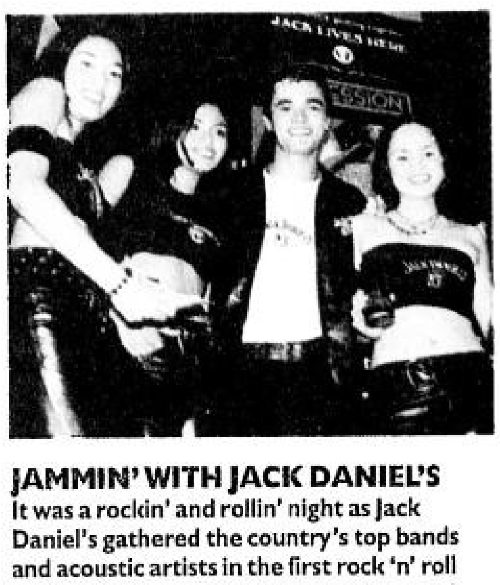
If it doesn't fit that initial criterion, it goes into the trash bin.

And who better to personify controversy than Lacson? But Ping had to wait.

I came on board for the second episode. The past six weeks has made me thankful I have no heart disease. Saturday is the main production day, the day when we put the pieces of the show together, and every Saturday is an invitation to a heart attack.

The segment producers and researchers, though mostly young in the business, are eager to learn and are dedicated to the show. They work well under deadline although I remember Arma Bacar, one of our segment producers, clasp my arm while we were rushing to finish editing the fourth part of our "Isang Pelikula Ka Lang" episode. The third part was already airing—and we still had two parts to clean up. His hands were glacial, his relaxed shoulder-length hair looked tense, he muttered an extended "*Ate-*

KONTROBERSYAL/ C6



JAMMIN' WITH JACK DANIEL'S
It was a rockin' and rollin' night as Jack Daniel's gathered the country's top bands and acoustic artists in the first rock 'n' roll jam session at Eastwood City to kick off a bar tour series called "Jack Daniel's Lives Here in Session," featuring Ricci Gurango of Mojofly, Hannah of Session Road, Wendell Garcia of Barbie's Cradle, Nino Mendoza of Blue Jean Junkies, Rann Golamco formerly of Mojofly, Allen Umali formerly of 3rd World Project, Edwin Coo of Blue Jean Junkies, Zach Lucero of Imago, Norby David of Skin, Jay Padua of Overtone, Frank de Castro of 7 Foot Jr., and guests Raimund Marasigan, Marc Abaya of Sandwich, Kitchie Nadal and Adrienne Sarmiento, at Bargo, Chicago Roadhouse and Cable Car. The tour is moving to other places, starting with Glorietta 2 on July 4. Call Acropolis-Beaverworks, 687-4883 to 84.

Goodbye, 'Compañero'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

I RECEIVED a copy of the e-mail sent to ABS-CBN by Gel Santos-Relos on her recollections about the late Sen. Rene Cayetano, with whom she worked for several years, first on radio where "Compañero y Compañera" was born and later on its TV version on ABS-CBN.

Gel said she is privileged to have met and known Senator Cayetano, whom she calls "my dear friend, our *Compañero*, the *Compañero.*"

"I feel so much pain and loss like all of the other people, whose lives he had touched," said Gel.

She left the country two years ago to settle in the United States with her family. She joined her husband, Dr. Rene Relos, who was then taking up a fellowship in medicine in Minneapolis, where they are now based with their children—Christopher, 18; Misty, 15; Katrina, 6; and Renzo, 5.

"I feel so sad," Gel wrote. "I regret not to have lifted the phone and given him a call. I regret not having mailed a letter soon enough. Maybe I thought and believed he was a fighter, as he had always been, and that he would still battle death. But on Tuesday morning, I was e-mailed by San Miguel's Mon Santiago, that our *Compañero* has passed away.

Resource person

"It was exactly around this time some nine years ago, when Atty. Rene Cayetano started guesting in my radio program over dzMM. We actually met through a family friend in Alabang Golf and Country Club and then I sold him golf shares, when I was doing real estate part-time, as I was in broadcasting.

"It was then that I invited him to guest in my radio program once in a while as my expert lawyer resource person. During this time, he was already doing some legal education program with his Pecabar lawyers over Bob Garon's radio station.

"When Freddie Garcia, ABS-CBN president, who also happens to be Atty. Cayetano's neighbor in Ayala Alabang, asked him to join dzMM once a week, Atty. Cayetano said he had already been guesting in my radio program and that he wanted to work with me.

"Hence, 'Compañero y Compañera' was born. It started out as a once-a-week special in my program, 'Relos Report.' He would come in on Tuesdays for a live broadcast. I invited people to write in their problems and questions. The response was phenomenal.

"And so that started the letter-reading portion every day and Atty. Cayetano, the 'Compañero ng Bayan,' would go live on the air to answer the letters and give legal advice. Whatever part of the globe he was, he would always call and give this special kind of public service.

Not a single centavo

"We also pioneered on radio the highly rated and multi-awarded radio drama, 'Compañero y Compañera,' which dramatized the problem situation sent in by a listener. At the end of the program, Compañero would give legal advice and legal education on the issue illustrated in the drama.

"Not many people knew that during the time we were doing the radio program together, Atty. Cayetano never received nor asked for a single centavo from ABS-CBN and insisted that he wanted to do this program to help the masses.

"Because of the success of our radio show, 'Compañero y Compañera' became a TV program in 1997 until the inevitable happened. Politics lured him and gave him the opportunity to serve the Filipinos more.

"The loss that I feel now is like losing a member of my family, for RLC was like a family to me. He was the *ninong* of my daughter Katrina and had been there for me and my family during rough times. Oh, he was a good friend, a friend who would give so much of himself without asking for anything in return.

"My staff in the TV show—May, Sheila, Gladys, Fiona, Jasmin, Cynthia and Christine—share these great and wonderful memories of Compañero. We have been privileged to know the Compañero and we shared a lot of laughter and dreams with him. We grew in wisdom because of him. We grew in compassion because of his cause.

Better lives

"My condolences to his wife Sandy, children Pia, Allan Peter, Ren-Ren and Lino, and his grandchildren.

"We will miss our dear Compañero. His memories will stay with all of us. His legacy will live on in the lives of all the people he had touched, the people whose lives have been better because of him.

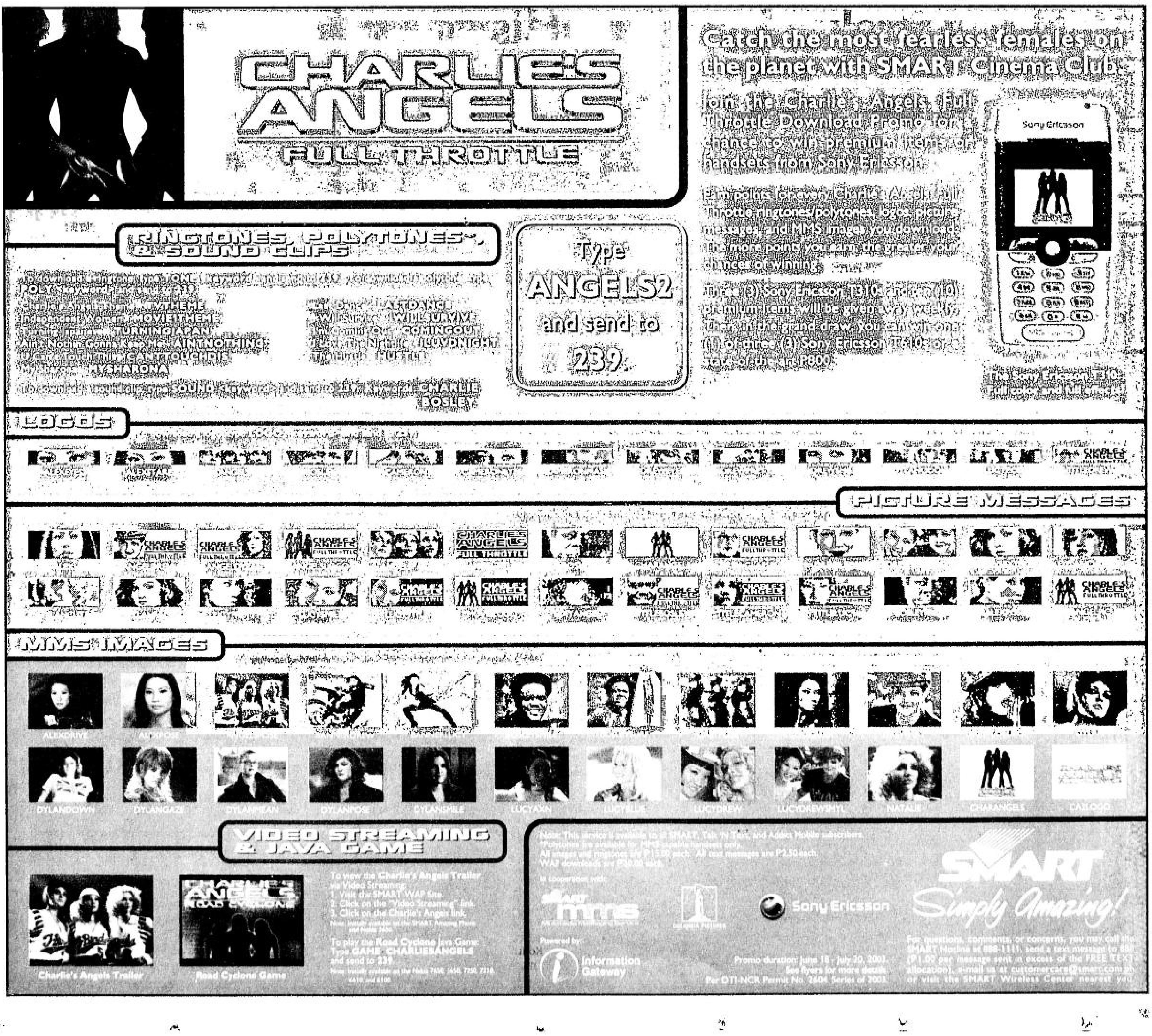
"Goodbye, Compañero. So long."

Gel didn't have any qualms about giving up her career in Philippine broadcasting to migrate to the US in 2001. She spent 12 years with ABS-CBN, where she hosted different programs, including the award-winning cultural show, "Tatak Pilipino," with Jim Paredes.

She resigned without any bad blood between her and her ABS-CBN bosses. Today, Gel even helps in the expansion of The Filipino Channel (TFC) on the East Coast.

"I've experienced being at the peak of my career," Gel said. "The thought of living in the States initially scared me, but it wasn't hard to make the decision to leave. My family is so important to me."

'COMPAÑERO y Compañera' Santos-Relos and Cayetano worked together on radio and then on TV.



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2. Click on the "Video Streaming" link.
3. Click on the Charlie's Angels link.

To play the Road Cyclone Java Game: Type GAME CHARLIESANGELS and send to 239

Note: This service is available to all SMART, Talk 'N Text, and Addict Mobile subscribers.
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Promo duration: June 18 - July 20, 2003.
See flyers for more details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2604, Series of 2003.

SMART Simply Amazing!

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

'Kontrobersyal' ba 'yan?'

From page C4

hhhh ..."

Together, we glared at the computer praying it wouldn't crash, the message of our production assistant, Cris Garcia, still fresh in our minds. Minutes before, Cris came into the editing room with an ominous announcement. The executive producer of a sitcom that came before us collapsed at the switcher as she handed their tape seconds before they aired. We swore we wouldn't have to be hauled out, unconscious, by the guards, too.

In the end, we made art and we made air.

"Kontrobersyal" stories cast a wide net. We have since done stories on show biz hopefuls and their bag of tricks. The things we do to our bodies -- from surgery for a face dimple to injecting horse medicine for muscles. Divas. PBA. Drug-testing. All controversial.

The look of the show had to suit the concept. *Direk* Pinggoy Generoso came up with the idea to shoot interviews as though the camera is hidden from plain view of the interview subject.

By week seven, "Target: Lacson" was in the can. Consistent with the show's intent, the episode was cause for debate among the staff itself. In the end, the consensus was that it was well-reported and carefully produced. It was ready to air. Week seven may yet bring us some luck.

At 11:57 p.m., my ABS-CBN ring tone went off. It was Boy again on the line. He called to say he liked the show. He said he received several text messages regarding the episode. The reactions were varied.

Good.

Otherwise, we wouldn't be "Kontrobersyal."

SHOW TIME

Jose Mari Chan at Ateneo concert

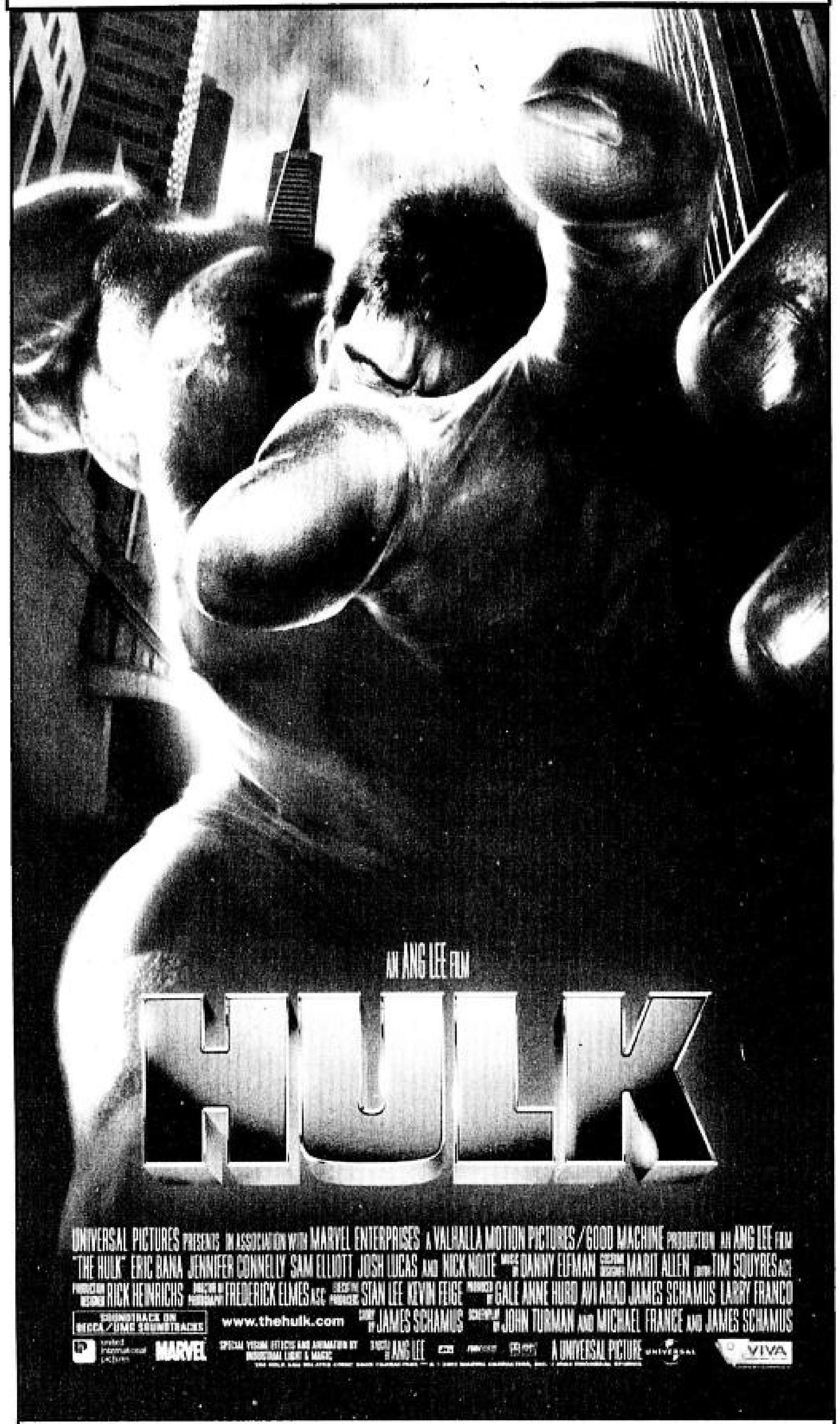
MULTI-AWARDED singer-songwriter Jose Mari Chan is performing in a concert called "Gabi ng Musikang Pilipino" tomorrow, June 28, at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater of the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City.

The show will also feature, among others, Marissa Sanchez, Hajji Alejandro, Celeste Legaspi, Anna Fegi, Alma Concepcion and the South Border.

Proceeds from the "Gabi ng Musikang Pilipino" will benefit the Character Building Foundation Inc., a nonprofit private organization that promotes positive Filipino values for nation building.

For inquiries, call the CBFI Secretariat at 426-3001 or 426-2983.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.



NOW SHOWING

OPENS TODAY
AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 – 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
Cinema 4 – 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1 – 11:45, 2:05, 4:25, 6:45, 9:05, 11:25
Cinema 3 (THX / GSC) – 12:55, 5:35, 10:15
Cinema 6 – 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50

GREENBELT 1
Onstage – 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1 (THX / GSC) – 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50
Cinema 2 (THX / GSC) – 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 10:15
Cinema 4 – 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 12:00

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1 (THX) – 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30
Cinema 2 – 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00

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For more information, pls. call 752-7880 or 82 (Glorietta 4), or 757-3860 to 62 (Greenbelt 3).
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

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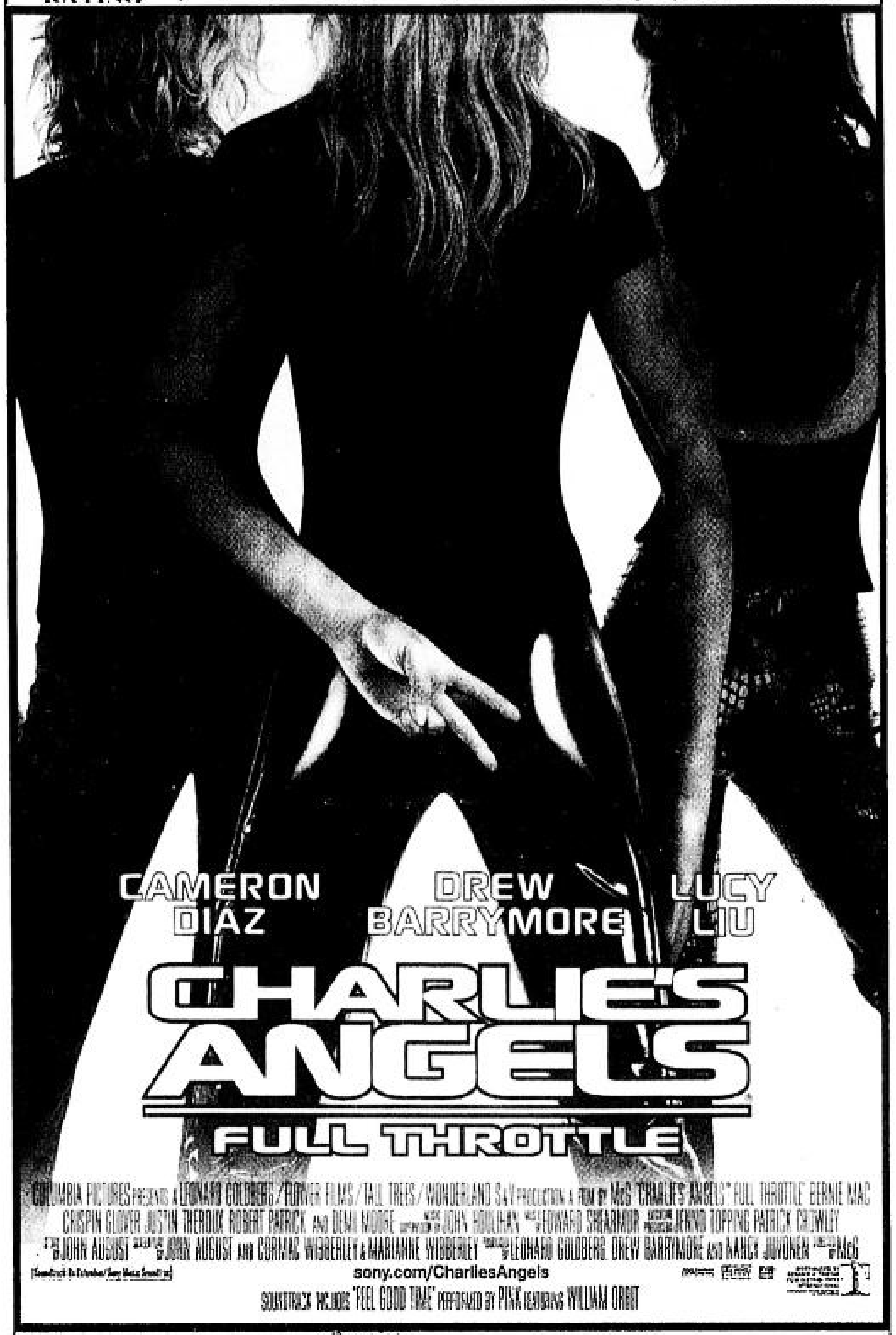

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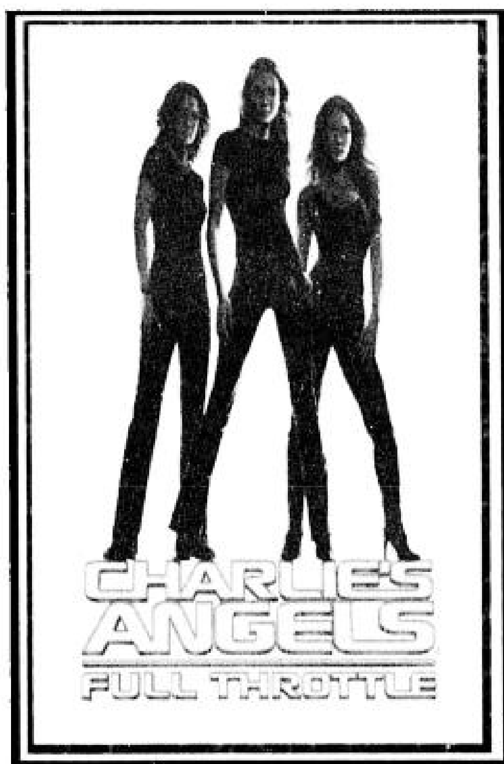

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NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating PG-13

Love & Romance at GREENBELT this June

GREENBELT 1
ArtFilm, Greenbelt 1: Punchdrunk Love (Adam Sandler) on June 18 to July 1

Coffee club discussion: June 18, 7pm at Cinema 2, Greenbelt 1

Watch the series of MONOLOGUES with Epi Quizon, Angel Aquino and Pinky Amador and piece these stories together.

GREENBELT 1 **Monologues and MAGIC** June 18, 7 pm at the Café Row
June 25, 7 pm at DeliFrance Area,
GREENBELT 2 **Monologues and SERENADES** July 2, 7 pm

GREENBELT 3 **Monologues and THEATER DUETS** July 3, 7 pm

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL TDHROTTLE	1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE	Art Film 1 PUNCH DRUNK LOVE (Exclusive) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50	THX 1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
2 HULK	2 HULK	2 HULK 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 10:15	2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
3 ANG TANGING INA	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 12:55, 5:35, 10:15	Onstage CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ADAPTATION 1:20, 3:50	3 HULK
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL TDHROTTLE	4 ADAPTATION		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 12:00	4 ANG TANGING INA
	5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HULK 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 8:25, 11:00	5 ADAPTATION
	6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE			
	7 HULK			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seals by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to **2333**. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

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MOVIE GUIDE
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4 GOLD (DTS ES) FRIDA
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE HULK
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) THE HULK
8 ANG TANGING INA
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10 ADAPTATION

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5 RESERVE
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(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
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2 BIGAY HILIG
3 TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
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5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

METROPOLIS star
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(Alabang) tel 850.4285
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2 BIGAY HILIG
3 TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
4 THE HULK
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK

M star
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1 OPERATION BALIKATAN
2 WHAT A GIRL WANTS

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THE HULK

Center Plaza Cinema
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2 BERTUD NG PUTIK

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515
1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 RESERVE
2 OPERATION BALIKATAN
3
4 THE HULK

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) THE HULK
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
7 (DTS) SANIB
8 (SDDS) PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
9 (DOLBY) THE HULK

Gotesco Caloocan
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2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 SANIB
2 TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 (SDDS) THE HULK
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 (DOLBY) BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 (DTS) THE HULK
8 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
9 OPERATION BALIKATAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
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1 TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
2 (SDDS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DTS) THE HULK
4 (DOLBY) THE HULK
5 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DTS) THE HULK
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 (SDDS) THE HULK

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(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Sampaguita
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1 THE HULK

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
Lords TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
Jennet

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 THE HULK
4 TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) THE HULK
2 TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
3 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1
2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 THE HULK
2 TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT

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Araneta center

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242/8400
1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 (SDDS) THE HULK
5 (DTS) THE HULK
6 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
7 ANG TANGING INA

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242/8400
1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
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1 PUTIK
2 KAPIT BAHAY
3 (DTS) THE HULK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) THE HULK
4 SANIB

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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1 ANG TANGING INA
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3 (DTS) THE HULK
4 SANIB

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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2 SANIB
3 (DOLBY) BERTUD NG PUTIK
4

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2 HOW TO LOST A GUY IN TEN DAYS
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4 (THX) THE HOURS

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2 (DTS) SANIB
3 ANG TANGING INA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 BIGAY HILIG
3 (DTS) TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
4 HE HULK

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) SANIB
2 KAPIT BAHAY
3 (DTS) THE HULK
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 DAYO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 THE HULK
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 SANIB

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 SANIB
2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 THE HULK

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 AGENT CODY BANK
2 THE HULK
3 (DTS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS)
2 (DTS)

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 KAPIT BAHAY
2 ANG TANGING INA
3

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ALAB NG LAHI
2 AGENT CODY BANK
3 THE HULK
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-6001 TO 03
1 (DOLBY) PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DTS ES) THE HULK
4 OPERATION BALIKATAN

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (046) 887-0121
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DOLBY) THE HULK
4 (DTS) THE HULK

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5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 HULK
7 SANIB
8 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

SM CENTERPOINT
7148822-7161416
1 HULK
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK
9 HULK
10 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2 SANIB
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 HULK
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8 TUMITIBOK,KUMIKIROT
9 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
10 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
11 DARKNESS FALLS
12 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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1 HULK
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 MON-RAK TRANSISTOR
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5 ADAPTATION
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8 TUMITIBOK,KUMIKIROT
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 BERTUD NG PUTIK
11 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
12 SANIB

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3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 HULK
5 ADAPTATION
6 MON-RAK TRANSISTOR
7 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
9 HULK
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12 TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT

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9286452
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2 HULK
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6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 HULK
8 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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2 ANG TANGING INA
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 HULK
5 SANIB
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8 HULK
9 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
10 TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT

SM CITY CEBU
2313976
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 HULK
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 DARKNESS FALLS
5 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 ALAB NG LAHI
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 CLOSED
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 HULK
5 ALAB NG LAHI
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 CLOSED
8 HIRAM

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 HULK
4 HIRAM
5 BIGAY HILIG
6 RING 0

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 HULK
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 ANG TANGING INA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 HULK
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 TUMITIBOK,KUMIKIROT

SM CITY DAVAO
2978998
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 HULK
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 AGENT CODY BANKS
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM BICUTAN
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2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 HULK

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1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 HULK
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA
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633-6976
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
10:15 FS/10:45 MF/1:05/3:25/5:45/8:05/9:55 LFS/10:25 LMF/12:15 END

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7 ADAPTATION
8 THE HOURS
9 FERDINANDO & CAROLINA
10 SALSA

MATINEE PRICE: [redacted] THX cinema / [redacted] level cinemas
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Ermita 536-7809-12
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5 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
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1 ANG TANGING INA
2 HULK
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4 HULK
5 HULK
6 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
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8 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

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2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
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6 HULK
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 HULING BIRHEN

Malabon Citisquare 288-0985 / 288-2575
1 TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
2 HULK
3 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
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2 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3 HIRAM
4 REAL CAN CUN
5 HULK
6 RING 0

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2 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 HULK
5 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
6 TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907
1 HULK
2 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3 BIGAY HILIG
4 KAPIT BAHAY
5 CHARLIES ANGELS 2

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459
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2 HULK
3 BIGAY HILIG
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 FRIDA
6 REAL CAN CUN

Iloilo 336-8077-78
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3 HULK
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6 HIRAM

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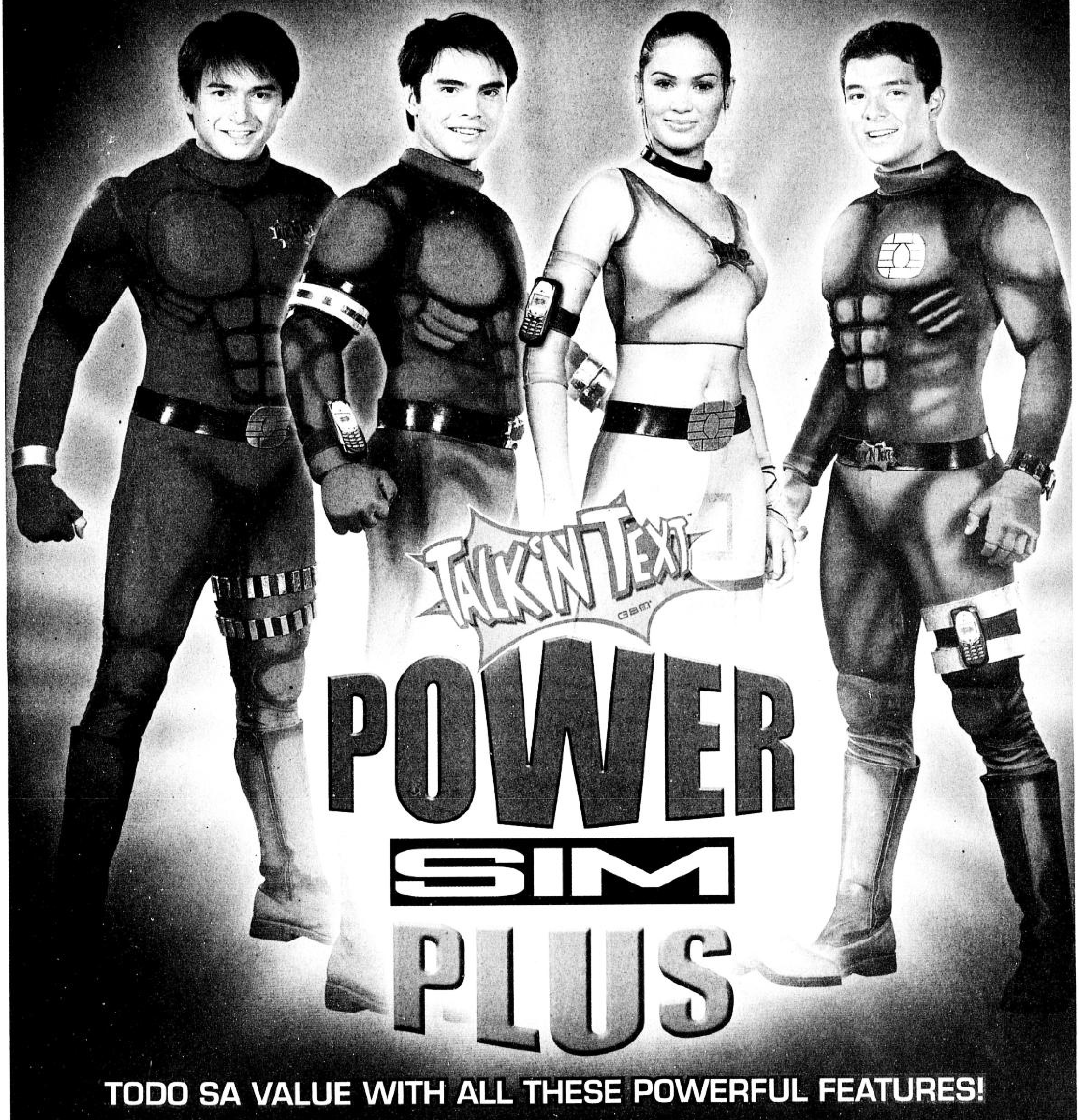

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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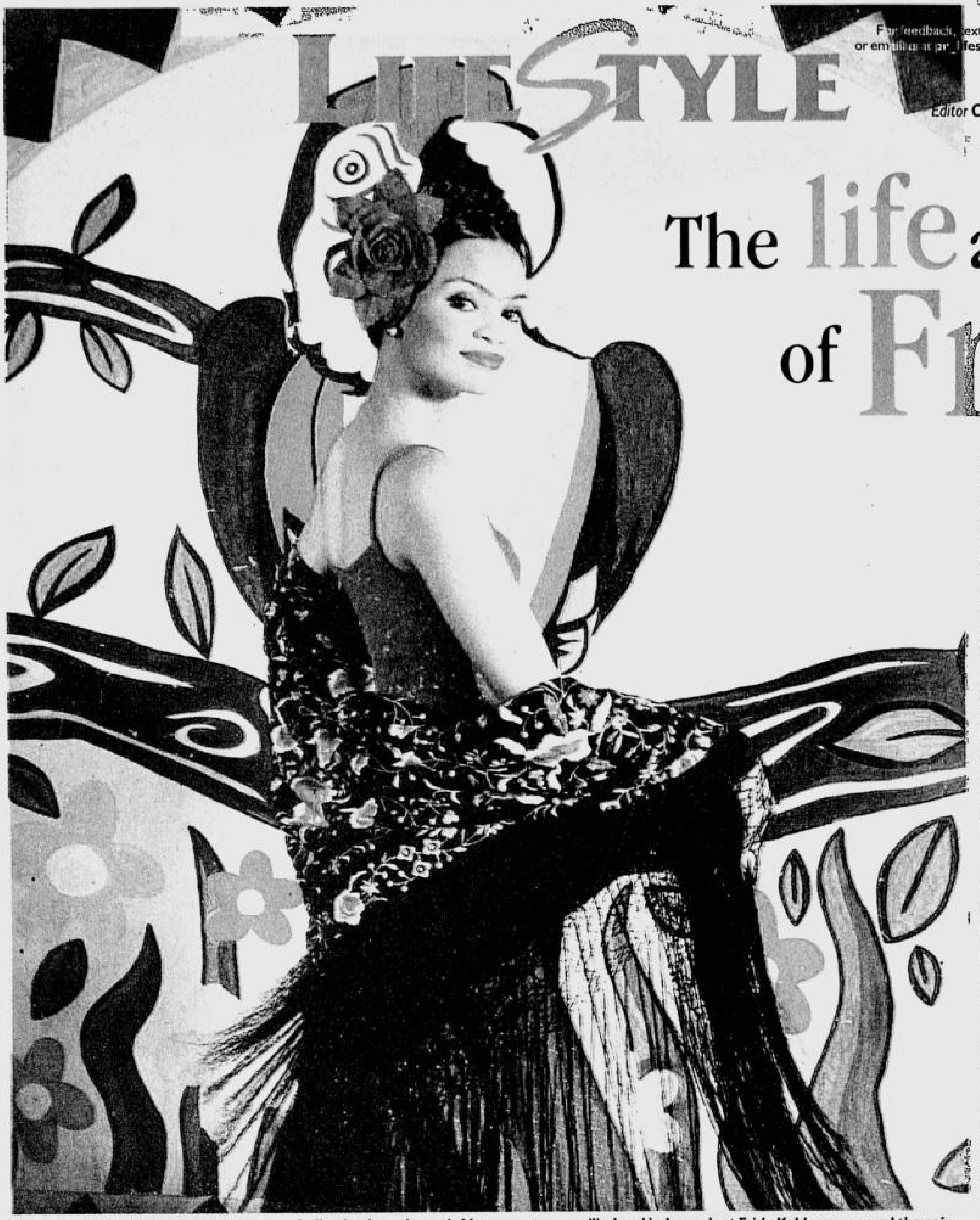
The life and fashion of Frida Kahlo

The Mexican icon of artistry and feminism lives on in this fashion shoot that relives her inimitable style

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina



HOT-AS-SALSA. You're in good company, ladies (and gentlemen). Not even strong-willed and independent Frida Kahlo was spared the pain caused by philandering husband Diego Rivera. Model Mich Astudillo wears an embroidered black shawl over Eric Pineda's red spaghetti-strapped gown with an asymmetric skirt made of glittery stretch jersey.

"YOU'RE my best friend, you're my colleague, you're my comrade, but you were never my husband!"

So declared legendary Mexican artist Frida Kahlo (Salma Hayek), during a crucial confrontation with husband and fellow artist Diego Rivera (Alfred Molina) in director Julie Taymor's "Frida."

Her philanderer of a husband tried to pin the blame on Frida after she admitted sleeping with Trotsky (Geoffrey Rush), the couple's revered Russian guest. After years of putting up with Diego's infidelity, she decided to get even.

Taymor's visual feast of a film so inspired us that it became the subject of our latest fashion shoot featuring the clothes of leading costume and fashion designer Eric Pineda.

"More than the movie, I find Frida Kahlo, the person, fascinating," said Pineda. "Frida was strong-willed and stylish. She was principled to a point, although her character was quite flawed. Apart from her physical disability, she wasn't traditionally beautiful. This didn't stop her, however, from crafting a signature style."

In style

After conquering Paris, Frida, still unrecognized in her country, insisted on attending her first solo show in Mexico despite coughing severely because of pneumonia. She got around her doctor's order to stay in bed by asking to be carried to the show while lying in her sickbed.

"Now that's what I call arriving in style," said Pineda, who, like recently hailed National Artist for Theater Design Salvador Bernal, is a founding member of the Philippine Association of Theater Designers and Technicians

THE LIFE/ D3

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ONE IS NOT ENOUGH. Mich wears a brown-and-gold backless gown of metallic stretch knit with cascading beads a la Ashley Judd. Paolo Paraiso and Jimmy Velasquez slip into identical pinstriped suits in brown and black.

STYLISHLY STRONG-WILLED. Patrick Rosas puts the finishing touches by adding real and faux flowers to Frida's trademark braids.

The life and fashion of Frida Kahlo

Frida outdrank, outspoke and later even outpainted Diego. With such moxie, who needs a husband?

CLOTHES: ERIC PINEDA
(TEL. 740-2004)
HAIR, MAKEUP AND GROOMING:
PATRICK ROSAS
AND TOTO BAGAMASBAD
STYLING: ANJOY HIPOLITO
AND ROMMEL ENDOZO
MODELS: MICH ASTUDILLO
AND JIMMY VELASQUEZ,
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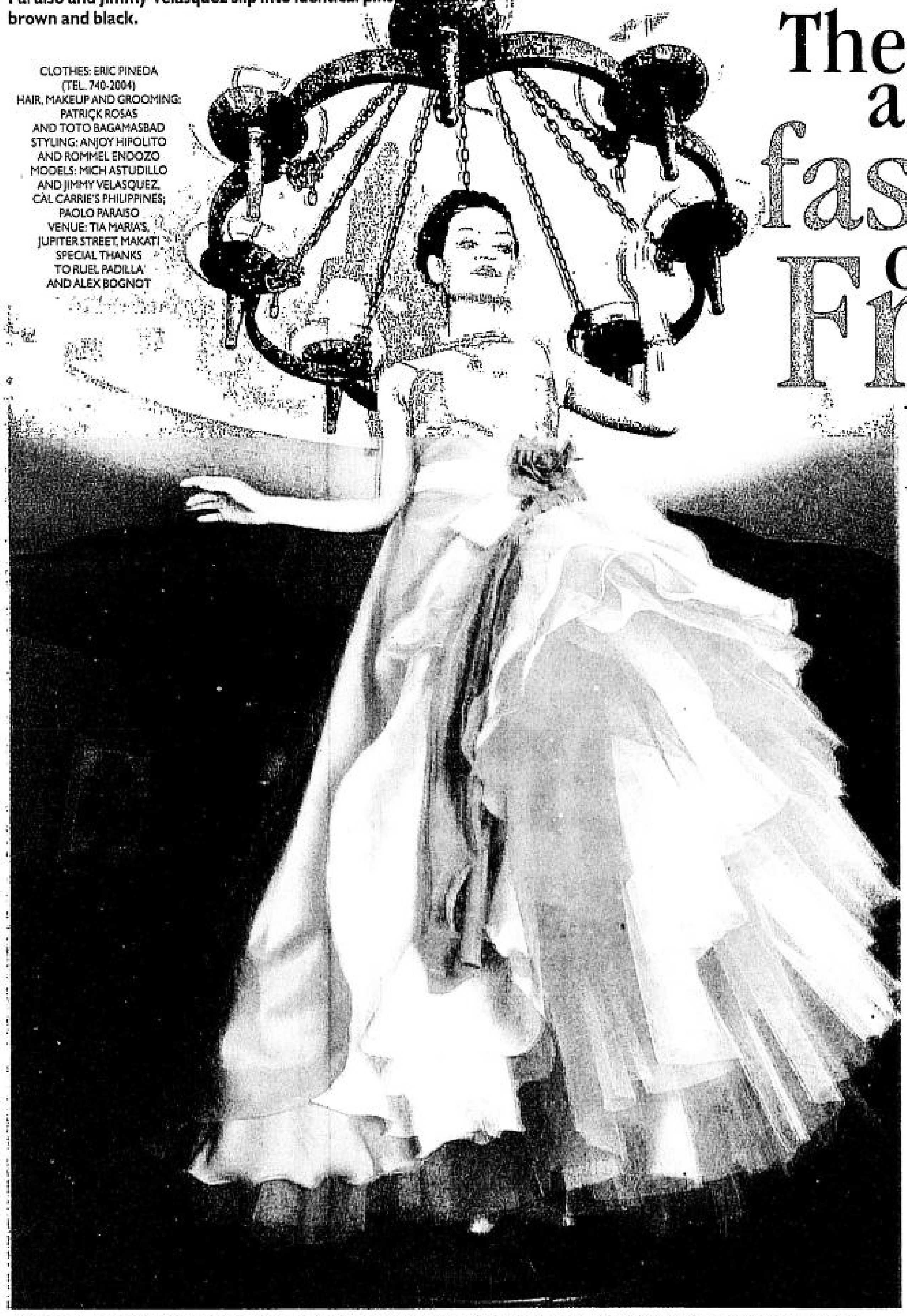
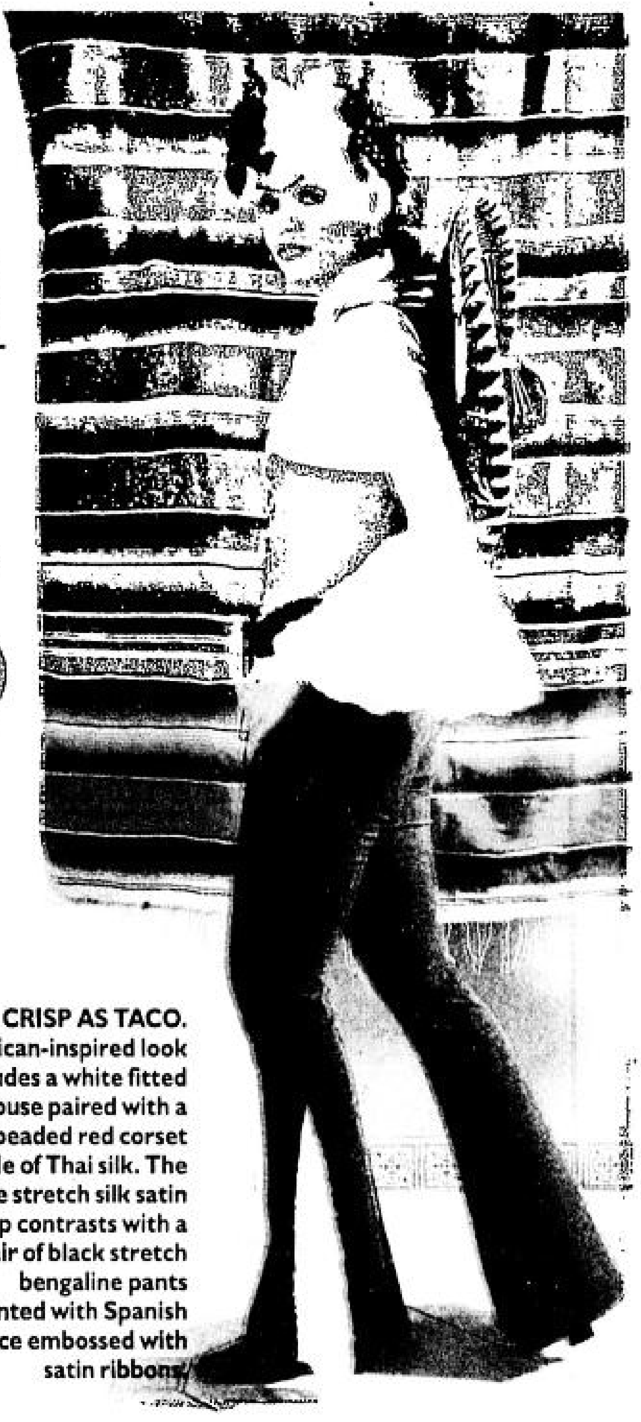
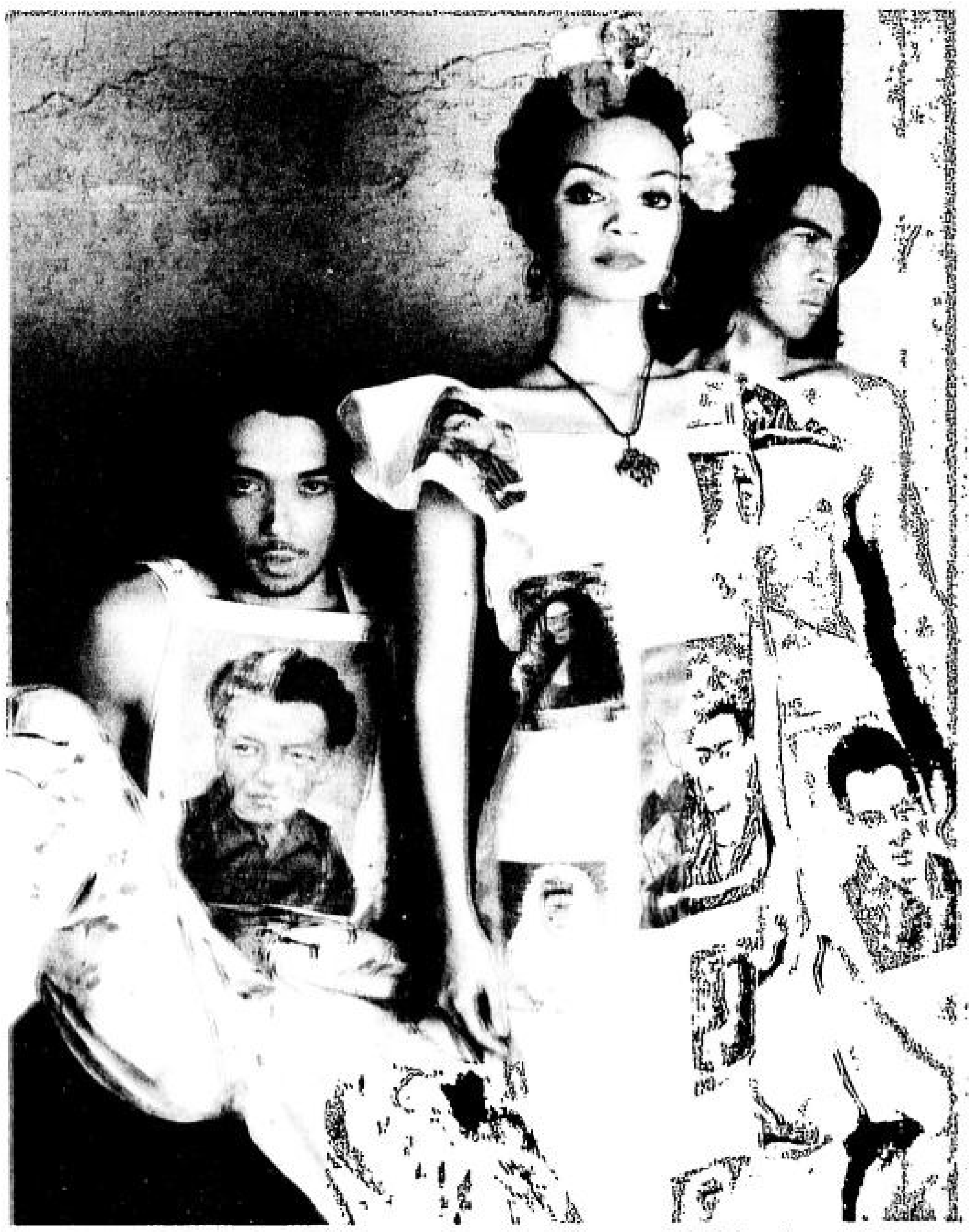


CITRUSY. Pineda's ball gown made of silk shantung and layers and layers of silk tulle combinesMexican shades of orange, red and yellow.



CRISP AS TACO. Mexican-inspired look includes a white fitted blouse paired with a semi-beaded red corset made of Thai silk. The white stretch silk satin top contrasts with a pair of black stretch bengaline pants accented with Spanish lace embossed with satin ribbons.

TEQUILA SUNRISE. Mich slips into one of Pineda's Frida redux outfits: a stretch rayon dress with a mock-turtle neckline and pencil silhouette in luscious shades of red, orange, yellow, violet and green lined with gold. Jimmy and Paolo are in 1930s mood: pinstriped pants, suspenders and newsboy caps.



SOUL OF AN ARTIST. A dozen or so computer-printed images of Frida's self portraits adorn Mich's dress with flounced sleeves and ruffled hem made of canvas. Frida's portraits of beloved husband Diego found their way on Jimmy and Paolo's jumpers.

From page D1

(Patdat).

Before he became the preferred makeup artist-cum-stylist of Manila's rich and famous women, Patrick Rosas honed his skills in theater productions.With his deft hands, and ample help from colleague Toto Bagamasbad, Rosas transformed model Mich Astudillo into the celebrated Mexican icon, complete with Frida's trademark braids, fresh and faux flowers and eyebrows that meet, in 30 minutes flat.

"Mich bears a striking resemblance to the real Frida more than Salma does," said Rosas, as he pointed to the square-jawed model with shoulder-length hair and a pair of round, soulful eyes.

"I used basic Spanish-inspired makeup consisting of a hint of rosy beige foundation, red lipstick and a smoky blend of eye shadow lined up and down with liquid eyeliner and mascara on Mich. To create the illusion of Frida's famous 'unibrow,' I applied black mascara in upward strokes between the gap of her eyebrows."

Braided magic

Rosas then went to work on Mich's hair, supplementing real tresses with a series of braided hair extensions.

"Frida's braided hair has definitely caught on among women the world over," said Rosas. "But it seems no one is brave enough to sport or copy her unibrow and moustache. I purposely avoided using nose lining on Mich since it would only call attention to her unibrow. I don't want my Frida to look like Snooky's character in 'Blusang Itim.'"

For aesthetic purposes, we settled on taller, younger and buffed versions of Diego Rivera in the persons of Jimmy Velasquez and newly minted *artista* Paolo Paraiso. Diego was hefty and aging in real life, but illusion over reality won out in the end.

Drawing inspiration from the movie was the last thing on Pineda's mind, and this showed in his wearable collection that fuses the colorful and sultry side of Mexico with show-biz glamour and nostalgia. Frida's colorful adult life, after all, began to unfold in the 1930s.

To keep the 1930s feel to a minimum, he also made the guys, not Frida, embody it in pinstriped jackets, vests and pants with cuffs, suspenders and newsboy caps.

Artistic focus

Since typhoon Egay was raging all over Luzon on the day of the shoot, the group decided to stay

THE LIFE/ D4

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2622, series of 2003

DEFINING LOOK. Spanish-inspired makeup by Rosas consists of a hint of beige foundation, red lipstick and a smoky blend of eye shadow lined up and down with liquid eyeliner and mascara on Mich. Rosas applies black mascara in upward strokes between the gap of her eyebrows to achieve a unibrow.

The life and fashion . . .

From page D3

at Tia Maria's Jupiter branch, nixing altogether plans to shoot in historic Intramuros.

"More than recreating vignettes of Mexico during Frida's time, I want to focus on her and Diego Rivera as artists," said Pineda.

Rommel Endozo, one of Pineda's assistants, downloaded a dozen or so images of Frida's self-portraits and her painting of Diego Rivera from the Internet. With the help of scene designer and Pineda's Patdat colleague Joselito Tecson, Endozo had the images printed using computer ink on several sheets of nylon acetate blend of various sizes.

Fourteen of Frida's self-portraits were then sewn on Mich's dress with a square neckline, flounced sleeves and ruffled hem made of canvas. The pair of Diego Rivera portraits found their way on Jimmy and Paolo's jumpers, also made of canvas.

Stylist Anjoy Hipolito gave both men's jumpers a distressed, "painterly" quality by randomly splashing them with green, black, yellow and fuchsia paint. He also insisted on using fresh carnations and several fresh blooms to supplement the faux flowers that adorned Mich's braided locks.

Pineda raised the oomph factor by fashioning a brown and gold backless number with strings of dangling beads that cascaded on Mich's back a la Ashley Judd, and a pair of spaghetti-strapped gowns with low necklines in iridescent fabrics.

'Citrusy' shades

Pineda enhanced the Mexican flavor by choosing "citrusy" shades in orange, red, yellow, green and violet. The skirt of a spaghetti-strapped shantung silk orange ball gown with corded edges appeared voluminous, thanks to a petticoat made from layers upon layers of tulle in red, orange and yellow. The designer finished off the look with a yellow and red sash that had a raspberry cabbage rose.

Call it a Mexican-inspired ensemble in a globalized world. Pineda paired a white fitted blouse with a semi-beaded red corset made of Thai silk. The white top made of stretch silk satin contrasted nicely with a pair of black flare pants made of stretch bengaline and accented with Spanish lace embossed with satin ribbons. The same lacy material, which was cut on the bias, were used for the hem of both sleeves.

"These clothes are my reinterpretation of what Frida wore or will wear had she lived today," said Pineda. "I call my collection, which consist of wearable items fit for today's modern women, Frida redux."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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E-mail should have no attachments (Word docs, photos, etc.). The article must be pasted or typed directly in the e-mail.

Photo prints for Lifestyle must be sent directly to the PDI office accompanied by identifying captions. Or they may be submitted in jpeg format on diskette or CD-ROM.

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All releases and contributed stories must have names of contact persons and their phone numbers for verification.

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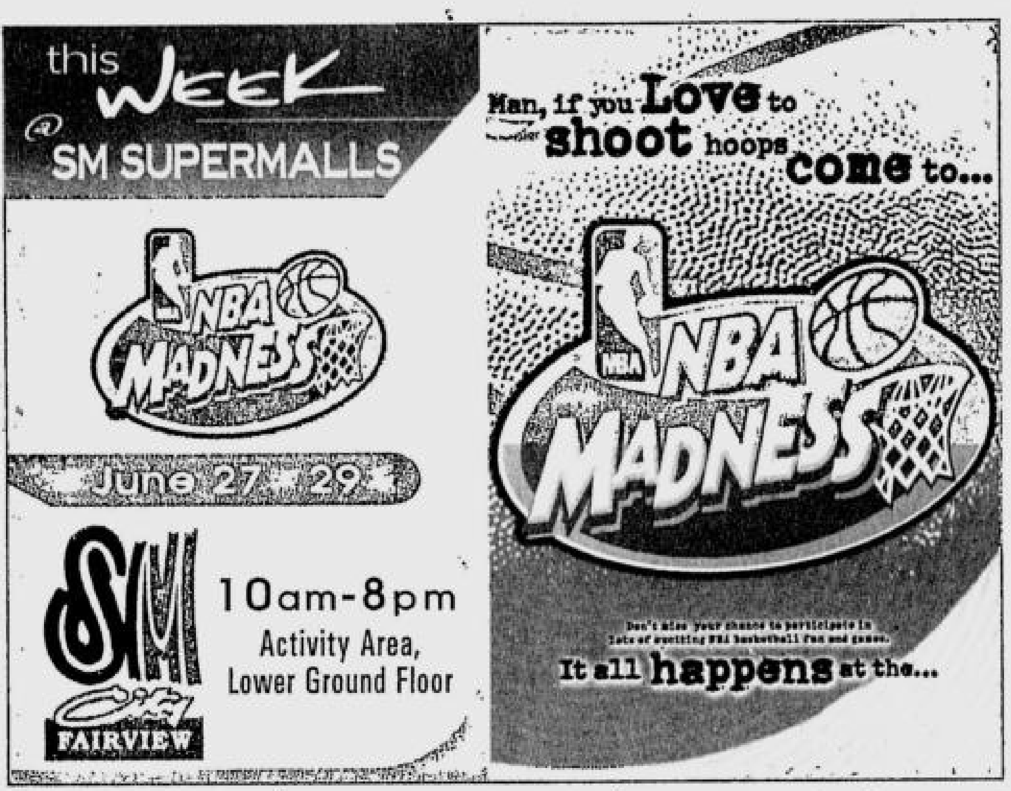
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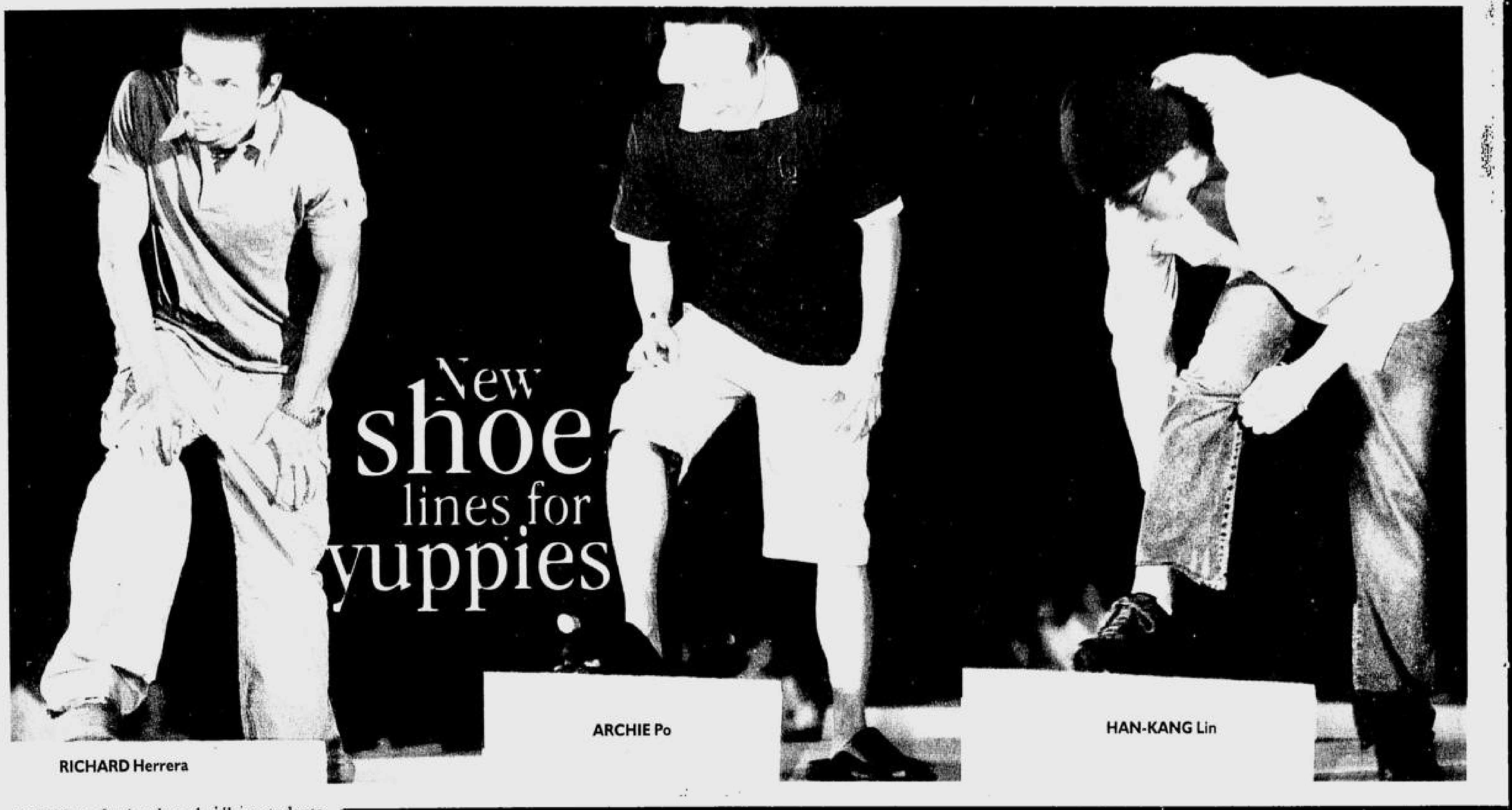

RICHARD Herrera

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YOUNG professionals and college students from the Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of the Philippines and University of Asia and the Pacific took centerstage when W. Brown, a leading name in men's casual footwear, launched recently five new lines in a fashion show titled "Tough and Gruff" at the Megastrip.

Each W. Brown new line consists of 60 new styles under the categories Traveler (leisure, outdoor casuals), Heritage (work-boots style), Classics (classic, everyday footwear), City (functionally business/working shoes with shiny leather finishes), and Street (new, unconventional and seasonal styles).

The brand that pioneered the work boots in men's footwear will hold a similar show in SM Cebu this month.

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Raul Teehankee

FRIENDS of Justice Undersecretary Dondi Teehankee trooped to Club Havana at Greenbelt last week to celebrate his birthday, Latin-style.

Salsa sounds, Cuban dishes, liquid concoctions and Tabacalera and Monte Cristo cigars at the Larry Cruz-owned bar assured everyone of a rhythmic good time.

The pica-pica menu was generous: spicy squids, black bean paste on French bread, crispy pata, and gambas swimming in olive oil.

Drinks list included standard reds and whites, Mexican Coronas, San Mig Lights, white and dark rum cocktails of mango mojitos and fresh coconut juices.

All in all, it was a sumptuous aperitif to an evening of music and dance!

Shawn Roberts, lead singer and conga drummer of Arriba band, livened up the place with his double-beat musical renditions and wowed the crowd with a flashy Bossa Nova dance, living up to his moniker as salsa king of Asia.

Sally Laurel and husband Alex Lopez were the first partners wiggling on the dance floor. Lizza Nakpil and Margie Logarta were sportily dressed, fresh and showered from a gym workout.

Statuesque Claudia Bermudez wore a casually chic white Ascot Chang men's shirt and straight-cut pants.

Choy Cojuangco popped in after checking out his Ice Vodka bar on Greenbelt's third floor.

Interior designer Anton Mendoza in black Armani sneaked in and joined sister Lilibeth, who was interpreting a tribal dance probably inspired by that "rave" sequence in "Matrix Reloaded."

Maurice Arcache was a late arrival, but he stayed on, partied and gossiped.

Energy Secretary Vincė Perez arrived just in time for the candle-blowing of the chocolate soufflé cake at the stroke of midnight. He joined the merriment and participated in the caterpillar dance.

BIRTHDAY boy Dondi Teehankee with Vince Perez

JON Herrera, Angela Silverio, Mike Crenshaw, Alex Eskat and Dale Villar

CLAUDIA Bermudez and Marjo Chan

BENJIE Cabrera, Jack Arroyo and Choy Cojuangco

TOMMY Ng and Rosanna Escudero

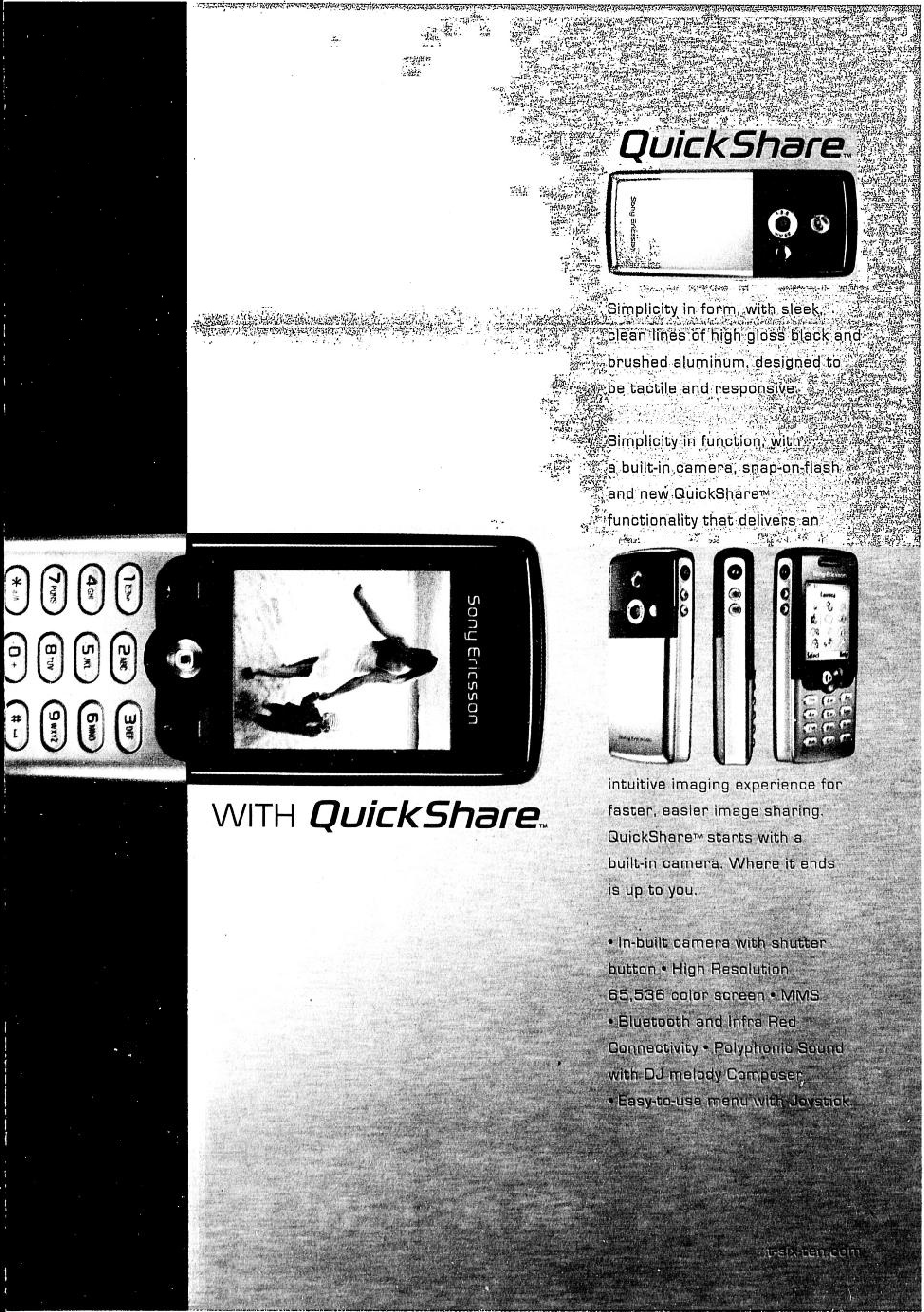
PEACHY Veneracion and Maritess Pardo Panlilio

MIA and Yoohoo Villanueva

ARCHIE Rodriguez, Kaye Madrigal and Lilibeth Mendoza

LAWYER Roma Valdez , Sally Laurel and hubby Alex Lopez

FELIX Barrientos and Reggie Jacinto



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Mag:net exhibits collage art

AN EXHIBIT of contemporary collages by Filipino artists titled "Cut/New Collage" will open today at the Mag:net Gallery (The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Eugenio Lopez Jr. St., Quezon City).

Curated by Roberto Chabet, the show features works by Ronald Achacoso, Johnny Alcararen, Bert Antonio, Roberto Chabet, Louie Cordero, Nilo Ilarde, Geraldine Javier, Yolanda Johnson, Lani Maestro, Manuel Ocampo, Jayson Oliveria, Gary-Ross Pastrana, Raul Rodriguez, Juni Salvador, Yasmin Sison, Soler, Gerardo Tan, Wire Tuazon and Conrado Velasco.

The exhibit is a figurative pastiche or patchwork of contemporary collage-making possibilities.

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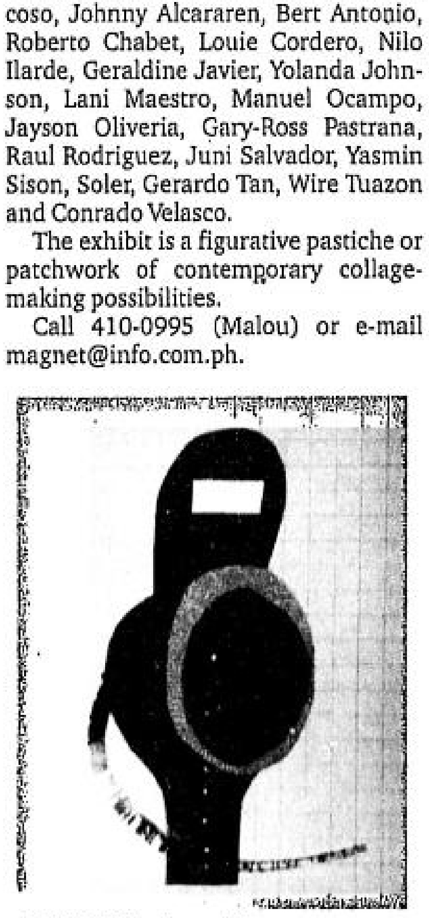
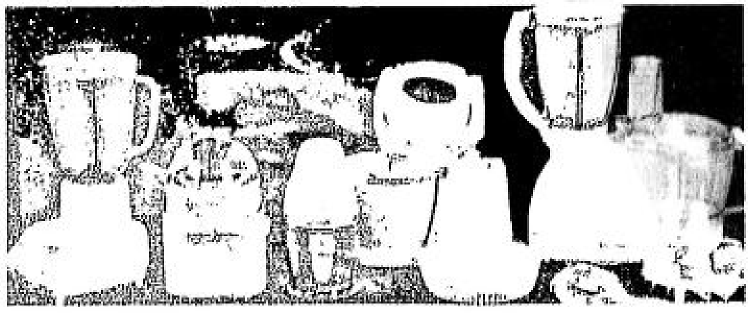


COLLAGE by Juan Alcazaren



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Meet the Power Lady

MAGIC Spell Inc. VP for client services Hermie Jovellanos, Center for Culinary Arts marketing manager Annie Palmares, Moulinex image model Mia Urquico, Moulinex brand assistant Cathy Bautista, CCA school director Christina Aquino and MSI president Philip de Belen

Small kitchen appliances for powerful ladies

CONSISTENT with the new advertising campaign "Power for the Lady" of Moulinex of France, the world-renowned brand of small kitchen appliances, women from different industries graced the launch at the C2 Restaurant of the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA).

Moulinex brand assistant Cathy Bautista hosted the launch while Julie Lim, vice president of Collins International Trading Corporation, CCA school director Christina Aquino and marketing manager Annie Palmares guided the participants and guests throughout the program proper.

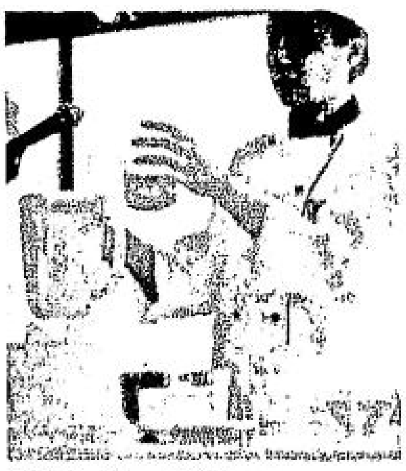
Also present to show their support for the power ladies were Magic Spell Inc. president Philip de Belen and Moulinex business unit senior manager Lucero Ong.

In line with the campaign, Lim introduced Moulinex's image model and spokesperson Mia Urquico.

According to Lim, Moulinex in the past years has chosen Caucasian women to represent the brand. After years of seeing these foreign beautiful ladies, Moulinex felt the need to have a Filipina, our very own, to represent the brand.

She is the personification of the new woman of the world and everything that embodies the Moulinex brand: modern, fashionable, sexy but caring. Mia is one of the country's premiere fashion designers with a high-powered clientele from society's most prominent ladies that include none other than President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The recent event likewise announced and formalized the partnership between Moulinex and CCA.



CCA chef Annali Mariano demonstrates the preparation of the day's lunch using Moulinex products.

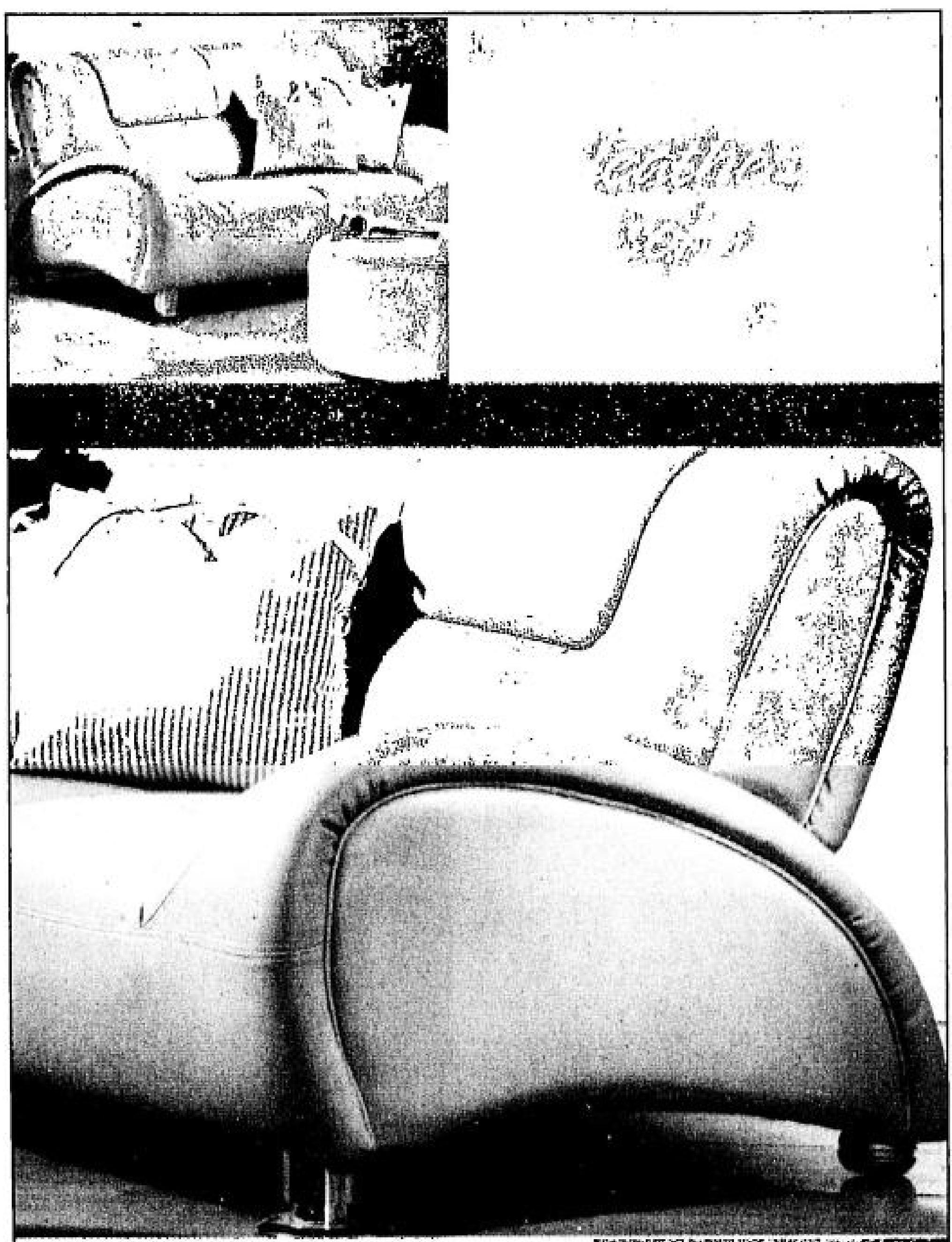
Annali Mariano, CCA's chef, demonstrated the preparation of the day's luncheon using Moulinex's efficient food preparation products.

Furthermore, CCA will develop Power recipes exclusive to Moulinex and continue the cooking demonstrations wherein CCA chefs will be using Moulinex appliances during food preparation.

Moulinex is a known brand of convenience appliances for the home, from food preparation to the breakfast table, from household equipment to caring for linen. Each of its products is developed to optimize its performance and functions.

Its new product, Multitrio Chopper, can chop all types of food, create thick and tasty sauces, blend soups into rich, creamy perfection and whip up delicious and heavenly desserts without the usual hassle and fuss.

Efficient and stylish, the Chopper has numerous safety features that guarantee accident-and-worry-free cooking anytime. The rest of the Moulinex food preparation product line consists of blenders, food processors, mixers, juice extractors and many other kitchen products.



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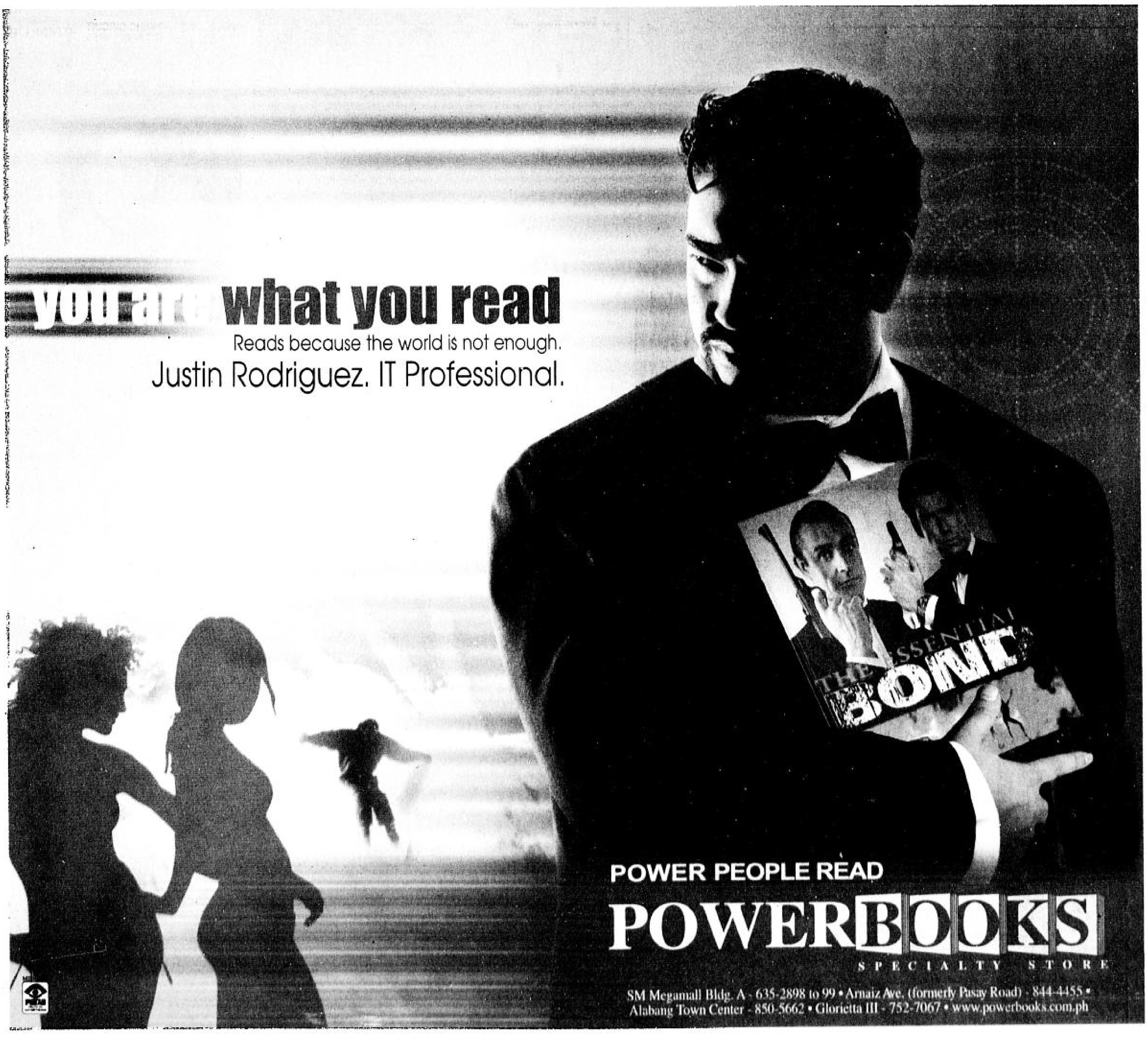
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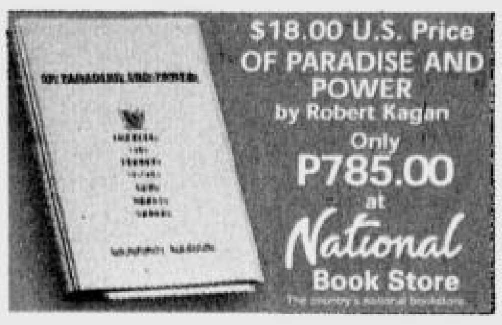
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When Jericho takes over my office

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THESE days my choice icebreaker is how "Echo" (**Jericho Rosales**, where have you been?) has taken over my office, physically. On certain nights, after I turn off the lights and leave the office, he plops himself on my chair, opens his Mac and becomes publishing executive. In the morning, before office hours, he's gone again, leaving no trace.

These past weeks this has been the routine, leaving our HR/Admin staff with bloodshot eyes, sleepless from watching the cast and crew rearrange the office to film an episode of the soap "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas."

Jericho plays an heir of a wealthy clan, who runs a publishing business. He's doing mighty well except that his grandmother (**Gloria Romero**) has rather ungrandmotherly schemes on him. He's been devoting the past days trying to find out the identity of the girl he's smitten with—**Kristine Hermosa**, of course.

Some nights I switch to the "teleserye" and chuckle as I catch sight of my chair or the many work stations in our office with its high, exposed ceiling. The chaos is as it should be.

The first time they taped the episode, on a Saturday, some of our staff showed up just to gawk. It was the office talk the following day as I searched for my high-heeled sandals, which I remembered leaving beside my cabinet. Didn't know Echo preferred high heels, I hollered, as they launched a search for the missing pair.

Turned out a production assistant just stashed it away somewhere.

Fortunately, my desk is always as I left it the evening before, down to the last post-it. You wouldn't guess one of the country's idols had just spent the night there.

Soap still rules primetime, more than ever it seems. In Forbes, I learned about a gaggle of matrons who do lunch almost every day just to piece together the goings-on in the lives of **John Lloyd** and **Bea Alonso**, the two young leads. Even the nuns in my alma mater know their soap.

I'm not about to add my two cents' worth on why soap rules the days of our lives; that has been done to death. It's just that it feels funny seeing your office in drama scenes almost every night.

Seeing stars

That's just one of the quirks and perks of holding office at ELJ Communication Center. Since we moved to the home base of ABS-CBN, show biz—with the celebs in it—has become just a step away, quite literally. You can't but watch the people who watch the stars.

The other week on the driveway as we were seeing off Rustan's Essences' **Toni Abad** and **Raffy Laguda**, there stood this tiny girl waiting for her ride, with a few gawkers around. "Mahal," I told Toni. "No," Toni said, "Mura."

Toni was right. It was **Mura**. Being the daughter of **Lilia Dizon** and the stepsister of **Pinky** and **Christopher de Leon**, Toni is so show biz literate. She's a well of trivia—history and current. Until then, I didn't know there was **Mahal**, and there's Mura who was Mahal's lookalike, plucked from somewhere, whose life could beat soap any time. I didn't even know there were two midgets making it big in noontime variety.

Shortly after, walking past us on the driveway was Mahal, the original. "Now that's Mahal," Toni said. Right, you could hardly tell one from the other, except that one was in denim jacket and looked kinda boyish. Toni walked up to them and took a snapshot of the pair with her cell.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

"They won't believe this. I have Mahal and Mura on my cell, to add to Wengweng. I can send these to my friends," Toni chuckled.

Wengweng who? I said. The midget action star of the '80s, she said. Didn't know Toni was into midget-collecting.

"Now you have M & M," said Raffy who, like me, refused to flunk his Show biz 101. It was kinda hard to keep up with Toni and **Apa (Ongpin)**, who knew by rote their "Temptation Island" dialogues. "Temptation" is this **Joey Gosiengfiao** movie of the '70s, which is now a dinner wake-upper among retro-hooked yuppies. There are "Temptation Island" junkies (like "Star Wars" junkies) threatening to host a Temptation Island fest where guests will try to outdo each other with their knowledge of trivia from this movie. Sort of the '70s-is-chic-again gig. Should be a gas.

The other night I invited for dinner National Artist **Rio Almario** and **Jimmy Laya** to celebrate Rio's award. We settled down at Cork, one of the restos in The Loop (the groundfloor sprawl in the building), which I'd noticed became the hang-out of the stars at night.

We paused in our talk about the National Artists Awards to look at **John Estrada** and friends squeeze their way past our table. Rio the poet knew who Estrada was, Jimmy the Filipiniana lover and finance whiz couldn't quite make him out. But then I remembered that months ago Jimmy didn't also know that the diminutive woman in khaki pants and shirt beside us in the elevator was **Nora Aunor**. When I told him after the lift's doors opened, he muttered something to the effect that our office elevator was a welcome change from Tower Club's. (Obvious *ba*?)

(Speaking of the national award, culture wags say there's National Artists Award, and there's "DNA." If you don't know what that is, you're out of the loop.)

Well, the above is all in a day's work. This building we're in now is not only lifestyle-shaping (from gyms to restos), it's also, uh, entertaining and, on some afternoons, multi-mood-inducing.

On a sunless afternoon the rain runs down our windows, like a colorless curtain, and the skyline becomes a blur. It almost lulls you into thinking that you can slow down and catch your breath. But that's only an illusion played on you by the weather.

In truth, you're always on the go, in full throttle. Always the hyperventilator, I usually find myself seated before the boss, perorating as usual about what's going wrong, going right, could go wrong or right.

And he'll go, "It's alright. Okay, let it out. So you don't get cancer."

I always take his word for it.

Accessorize!

Unless you've been living under a rock, you must know by now women can hardly step out now without donning accessories. If in the '90s you hid accessories and forgot they ever existed, in this era, you flaunt them.

Bangles, chokers, trinkets, crystals and semi-precious gems, metals. Name it, they put the finishing touch to your look.

They're the natural clinch to the retro, vintage, ultra-glam reign. Even bags round up the look.

Which is why many women I know are working out of the house, doing bags, trinkets, necklaces, their own accessories line, their own fashion statement. Among them is **Chiqui Hollman Yulo**, who does exquisite necklaces and bracelets. Chiqui and her friend **Bing Pimentel** are also starting personality development workshops.

> Since we moved to the home base of ABS-CBN, show biz has become just a step away literally

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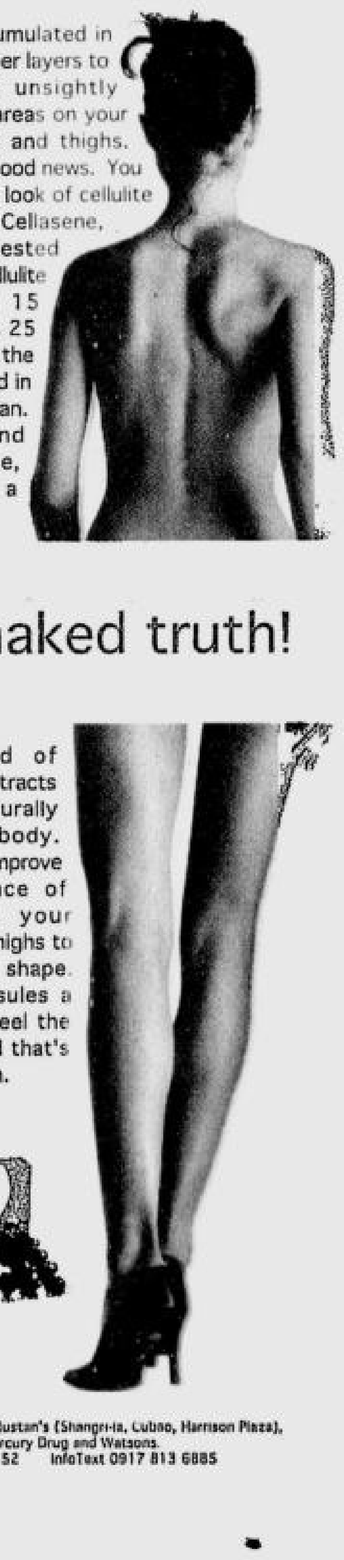
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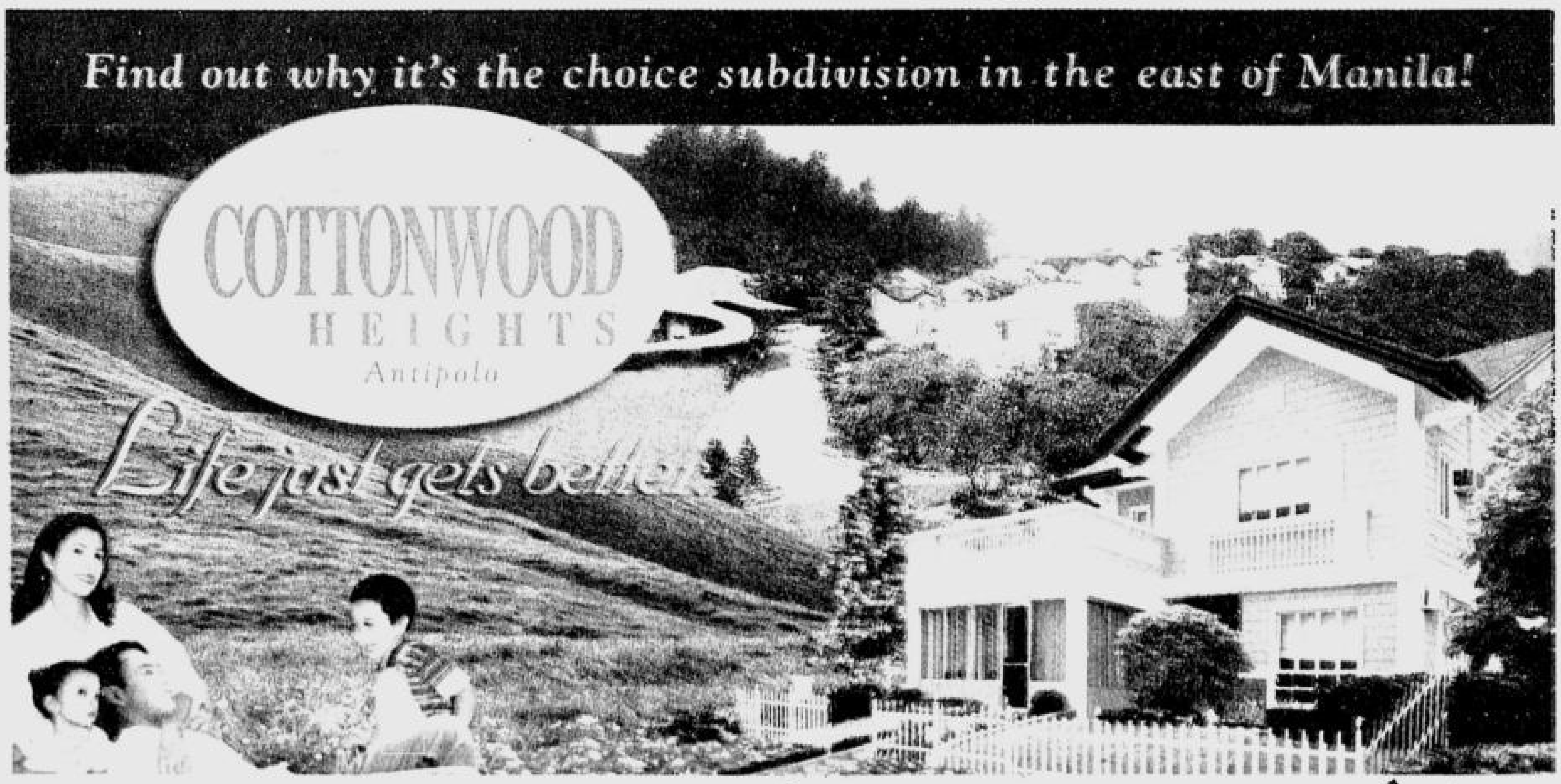
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Does her pastor want more than friendship?

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am 30 years old and had a boyfriend a year ago, but we broke up because of incompatibility. I'm not depressed for having no boyfriend, but when I met this pastor, we became close and I found him loving, caring and trustworthy.

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

In his text messages, he often says I am important and special to him and he loves me. I've told him I respect him a lot and consider him like a father to me.

He is from another town, and so we have very nice talks when we meet in church functions. Often he holds my hands while we talk.

My girl friend said this pastor wants more than friendship from me and suggest that I stay away from him.

He is 62 years old and married. In case my friend is right, I don't want to destroy his family. If my friend is wrong, I would lose a very good friend.

CHER

Your friend might have a point. The pastor is apparently given to behavior that may be common in Western cultures but which raises eyebrows in ours.

In our culture, it's not common for friends of the opposite sex to hold hands during a conversation, or to say "I love you" in text messages. Even if the pastor has a very modern orientation or is a missionary from the West, we would expect persons of his profession to observe local customs to avoid misunderstanding.

The recent spate of allegations of immorality against religious leaders here and abroad has probably made all of us wary of our pastors' and priests' behavior. Such wariness is justified, I think, because it shakes the foundations of our faith when people tasked with protecting our morals are the ones who violate them.

But we should not be too quick to judge. Pastors and priests, I believe, are as a whole virtuous and true to their vows. So let's first give your pastor-friend the benefit of the doubt.

If the way he holds your hands remains friendly albeit prolonged, and if that's how he talks to almost everyone he's well acquainted with, then he's simply a "touch person" and has no ill intentions.

And if he writes "I love you" to nearly everyone he sends text messages to, then he might simply be naturally sweet or *malambing*. And always read those three words in the context of his entire text message.

If after reviewing his behavior you find it ambiguous, then give him the benefit of the doubt. You might go an extra mile and save him from complications by telling him your friend's opinion.

But if you conclude he has been acting inappropriately, then heed your friend's advice.

Easing traffic in Katipunan

From page F4

loop or U-Turn system which will not benefit pedestrians at all.

Sidewalks should be left for pedestrian use. Corn and candy vendors there should be relocated to the vacant area in front of the barangay hall in Loyola Heights.

Vehicles, particularly tricycles, must have to comply with one-way traffic flow and avoid shortcuts that would create counterflows.

Through all these suggestions, of which only a part are mentioned here, Annie Cruz and her colleagues hope the city government would come up with more reasonable zoning regulations.

Allowing the construction of high-rise condominiums, for example, would only increase the number of vehicles in Katipunan in relation to the number of condo residents.

There must be a way of doing these things without impinging on people's rights to build, work and live where they want. But it must be remembered also that there should be order even in the name of progress, otherwise you'll only have unending problems with no solutions.

In a way, Katipunan is fortunate something is being done—something still possible to do—to keep a measure of crisis control for its multifaceted problems. It still has a chance to develop and grow as envisioned by those who are trying to add to the quality of their life by beautifying, greening... and planting trees.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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Seminars on writing and English grammar

CORBAN Learning Center will hold seminars on Magazine Writing and Editing on July 5 and 12, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., and English Grammar for children, July 19. The seminars will be facilitated by Moria Gonzalez. Call 842-6665 or visit Unit F, MB Aguirre Bldg., President's Avenue corner Elizalde St., BF Commercial Center, Parañaque.

GOINGS ON

PROGRAM. Ayala Museum's Continuing Education Program, Escuela sa Museo, introduces Nature and Art at Greenbelt Park. This landscape drawing and painting class will be held on June 28. Call 813-4485.

ART AUCTION. Sining Pamana, an art raffle-auction, will be held June 27, 6 p.m. at Parish Hall of Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati. The event will benefit the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Canlaon City; Church of Nuestra Señora de Buen Suceso, Negros Oriental; construction of the Church of the Spousal of Joseph and Mary in Iloilo; and expansion of St. John Mary Vianney Seminary in Negros Occidental.

ACTIVITY. The Quezon Memorial Circle will hold an Arbor Day activity on June 29, 2-4 p.m. Environmental aides will administer treatment on common identified defects and abnormalities of trees at the Circle.

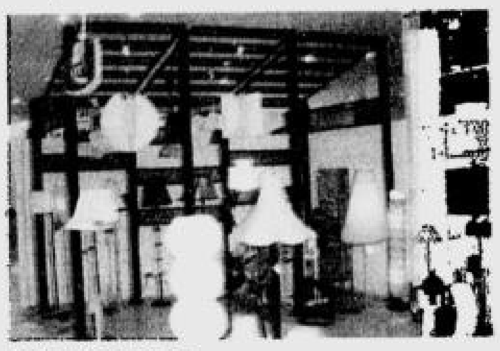
SALE. Shangri-La Plaza Mall offers 70 percent discounts on American brands on July 4-20. Participating stores include Anne Klein of New York, Armani Exchange, Beauty Bar, Calvin Klein Underwear, Coach, DKNY, Florsheim USA, Guess?, Kenneth Cole, Mrs. Fields, Nach-O-Fast, Naturalizer, Polo Ralph Lauren, True Value Home Center, and Van Heusen. Call 633-7851.

STORE OFFERINGS. Homeplus, the furniture division of Abenson, recently opened its showroom in WalterMart, Pasay Road, Makati. It offers store visitors a chance to win giveaways like sofa beds, body mirrors and couches. Simply fill out a raffle coupon and your entry will be included in the raffle. No need to buy anything.

RP BET. Gladies Salac, a 17-year-old Caviteña, will compete in the the International Model of the World finals in Aruba.

The trip was arranged by Redboa Models Co., a new modeling agency which holds the franchise to four International modeling competitions. Aside from the International Model of the World, Redboa has the franchise to the Top Model of the World in Germany in September, Miss Model of the World in Hangzhou, China in October, and International Male Model in Aruba in October.

EXHIBIT. Lising Crafts Inc. opens a branch at East Wood Home and lifestyle center at Libis, Quezon City. Formal inauguration together with other shops will be on June 27.



LISING Crafts Inc.

Grand launch of home center

PREMIER property developer Megaworld Corp. is set to launch today. The Home Center, a one-stop home and lifestyle hub, in its flagship Eastwood City development in Quezon City.

Located at the Orchard Road in Eastwood City, the Home Center houses upscale furniture and home accent stores.

Shops located at the Home Center's modern, single-level mall-type building include Index Furniture Center, a concept store offering a line of modern furniture that fuses American and Scandinavian themes, and Unna Moebel, which specializes in export-quality furniture made of wrought iron, wood and leather. Sifra Arts & Crafts provides Asian-themed decorative dinnerware, fabrics and pillows, while Japanese furniture is the main offering of Koga Japanese Inspirations. Spa fanatics will love Bodyfood's all-natural home, bath and body products while the creative set will enjoy painting their own ceramic creations at the Pottery Exchange.

Other finds at The Home Center are unique Asian antiques at Justin's Treasures, scented handmade candles at Bright Ideas, country style handicrafts at Benelco Arts & Crafts, handmade lamps and luxurious chandeliers at Lising Lamps, paintings of local talents at Diseños Alegria, pottery and ceramics at Lanelle Abueva-Fernando Studio, wall art and framing services at Elite Arts & Frames, exotic home accents at Studio Eleven of Shell Canvas and imported fresh and artificial flowers at Designer Blooms.

Highlighting the launch is a ceremonial ribbon cutting at 6 p.m. to be followed by a walk-through presentation of the various shops. A special number from the UP College of Music String Quartet is scheduled during the cocktails.

Eastwood City is located along E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue in Quezon City. Call 867-8826 to 40 local 280

Easing traffic in Katipunan

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

KATIPUNAN Greening Movement members aghast at learning that the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) was set on removing trees from certain sections of Katipunan Avenue, Q.C., to widen the roads and ease traffic, have put out a position paper on the matter.

It was signed by presidents Bienvenido F. Nebres of Ateneo de Manila University, Patricia B. Licuanan of Miriam College and Francisco Nemenzo of the University of the Philippines.

They represent, in effect, not only their schools, but also parent groups, business establishments, residents, environmentalists, traffic and transport experts, and the concerned public.

Traffic jams can be reduced through strict traffic management and control, which should be consistently enforced, say the university execs. To attain this, there is a need for an improved traffic light system and proper placement of roads and sidewalks.

Specific ways

To this general position statement, Annie S. Cruz, who has been in the forefront of the greening movement from the start, adds specific ways the MMDA, the local government and the schools and residents themselves could follow to arrive at happy solutions that would lighten the traffic and leave the trees in peace to continue clearing the air in the area.

Many of her suggestions point to specific traffic problems. She emphasizes, for example, that traffic rules could be better enforced if there was a Tow-Away Zone or a Strictly No Parking Area along the west side of the Katipunan service road.

Jeepneys must not be allowed to park at the present jeepney stop outside Ateneo. Instead, Ateneo and Miriam may opt to allow a number of jeepneys inside their campuses and thus be more accessible to students and working commuters. This would be similar to the jeepney "*ikot*" system in UP.

For easier implementation, more visible directional signs like U-Turn, No Left Turn and Left or Right Turns, No Entry, could be set up. Loading and Unloading zones should also be established at strategic points along Katipunan, as well as speed limits suitable for a school zone.

Another suggestion calls for the effective timing of traffic lights in conjunction with the volume of vehicles during a given period of time. This is crucial in easing traffic flow, as motorists from the villages are fewer than those plying the main road.

The construction of an access road between Miriam and Ateneo would be another matter to consider. Such access road will make it easier to ferry students inside the campuses and eliminate a significant number of vehicles on the road at peak hours.

Scheduling certain days as non-school days could be the school's contribution to decongestion. Miriam, for example, has marked Mondays as non-school days for college students, leaving them to make up on other days of the week.

If Ateneo and other institutions in the area did the same, traffic could be made lighter on at least those non-school days.

The car-pool system is another way of reducing the number of vehicles bringing students to and from school. Constructing a covered walkway on the sidewalks along Miriam and Ateneo would also encourage students to walk more and ride less.

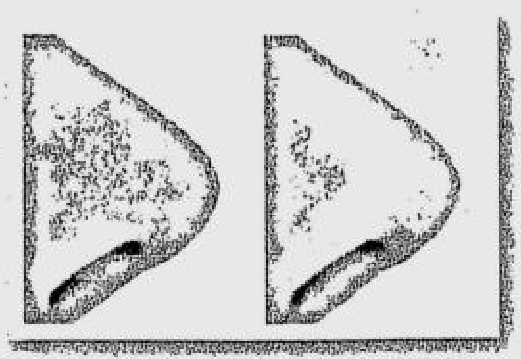
Widening school entrance roadways from two to four lanes would also be helpful.

No left turns

Traffic management officials, she says, might also consider eliminating left turns at intersections, for instance, to lessen waiting time for motorists and prevent bottlenecks.

Those who wish to go to the west side will have to make a U-Turn at the approach of UP I.S. This is a reversal of an MMDA plan to convert the entire Katipunan stretch into a

EASING/ F2



I-fast forward
ang ginhawa sa sipon.

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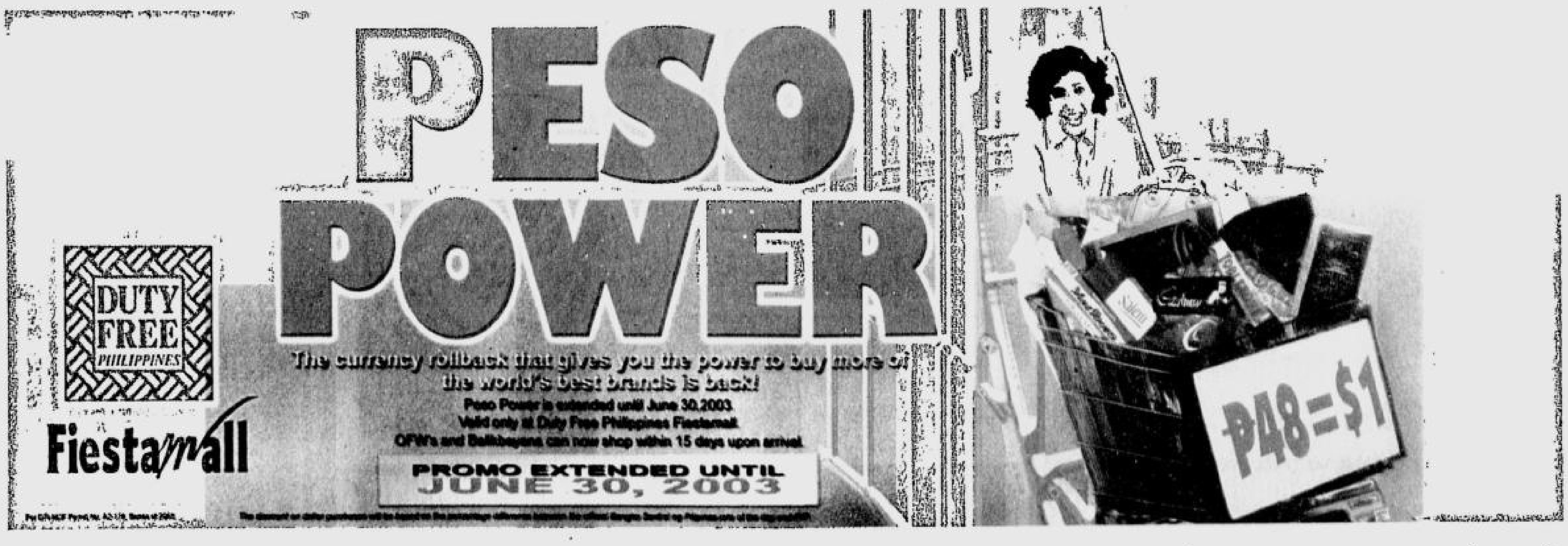
CHLORPHENAMINE maleate
PARACETAMOL
SALICYLAMIDE
ASCORBIC ACID
NEOZEP

Dahil may umaasa sa 'yo,
huwag magpaabala sa sipon. Huwag magtiis.
Unahan na ang sipon. I- Neozep agad.



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The wedding gown of your dreams

I'M getting married in six months and I have no idea how to go about choosing and ordering my wedding gown. I'm hoping that you can give me advice or guidelines on how to start and what to do. I truly want to look and feel my best during my big day.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

There are several things to consider when choosing your wedding gown. First, and perhaps the most important, is your personal style.

Are you a modern, sleek sophisticate, a traditional romantic bride or maybe a combination of both? You should more or less know what you want and who you are at this point (you are getting married, after all) but if you are still uncertain, there are several things you can do to help narrow down your style choices.

Start off by doing a bit of research. Pore through wedding magazines like "Martha Stewart Weddings" or "Bride & Home," wedding books like "Vera Wang on Weddings" and countless catalogs.

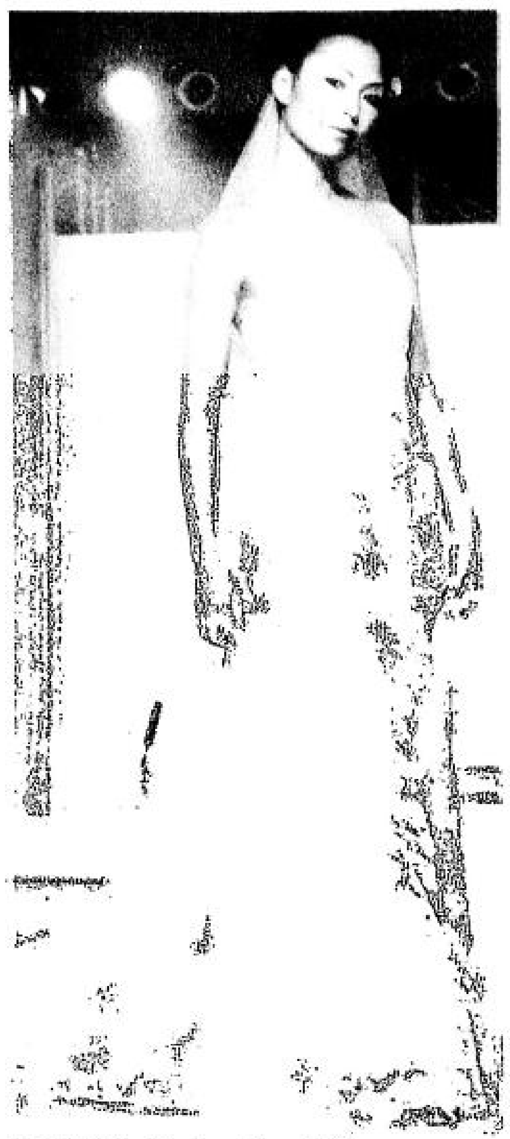
Next, attend bridal fashion shows and fairs that are regularly held at various hotels and department stores. It's a great way to find gown styles that you like and to meet potential suppliers and designers.

Movies are also an excellent source of inspiration, not just for your gown but for the wedding theme and setting as well. Get your creative juices flowing by watching films like "Father of the Bride," starring a young and flawlessly beautiful Elizabeth Taylor, period films like "Age of Innocence," "Gone with the Wind" or "Gigi" and more current hits like "Runaway Bride" or "My Best Friend's Wedding."

If those are not enough, take your cue from style icon Audrey Hepburn by watching any one of her movies like "Sabrina," "Roman Holiday," Funny Face" and "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Or watch classic beauty Grace Kelly in "High Society," "To Catch a Thief" and "Rear Window."

It is also advantageous to create a wedding scrapbook where you can gather and paste cutouts of gowns, color swatches, shoes, bags, favors, bouquets, flower arrangements, cakes and other wedding-related items that you like. This book serves as your reference when you go to your suppliers. Plus, it's the perfect tool to help you organize and edit your choices.

Knowing what you want style-wise can help you communicate better with the designer of your choice. Remember that no matter what the professionals say, you are the best judge of what style suits your personality most. So, don't let anyone railroad you into choosing a design that you are not completely satisfied with.



CREATE the illusion of length if you are petite.

> Choosing the right bridal finery starts with knowing your own personal style

Know your body type

The next consideration when choosing your wedding gown is your body type.

It's time to get real! Take a good look in the mirror, take those blinders off and determine, once and for all, what kind of body you have. Your aim is to find something that complements your body type so you can accentuate your best features and disguise your flaws.

For example, if you are petite, with a body type that is similar to that of Jada Pinkett-Smith, your goal is to create the illusion of length or to elongate.

Do this by choosing a narrow, streamlined design that skims the body. Stay away from full skirts or styles that use meters upon meters of fabric. Simple, clean lines suit you best. Anything frilly or chock-full of details might overwhelm your slight frame.

If you are more like Oprah Winfrey, aim to create a sculpted and slimmer silhouette by using stiffer fabrics like duchesse satin, alaskin and taffeta. Fabrics like these help create a more tailored, and, therefore, trimmer, effect.

It's also a good idea to avoid fabrics that are overly shiny, as they create the illusion of extra weight. And never underestimate the importance of the right kind of underwear. Choose a girdle or corset that whittles your waistline and flattens your bulges.

If you are not sure about your body type and what will suit you, ask a trusted, objective friend to help you out. Your chosen designer can also help you establish these things, so don't be embarrassed to discuss your concerns with him.

Choose the right color

Once you know what style of gown suits your body type, you must determine your skin tone and what color matches it best.

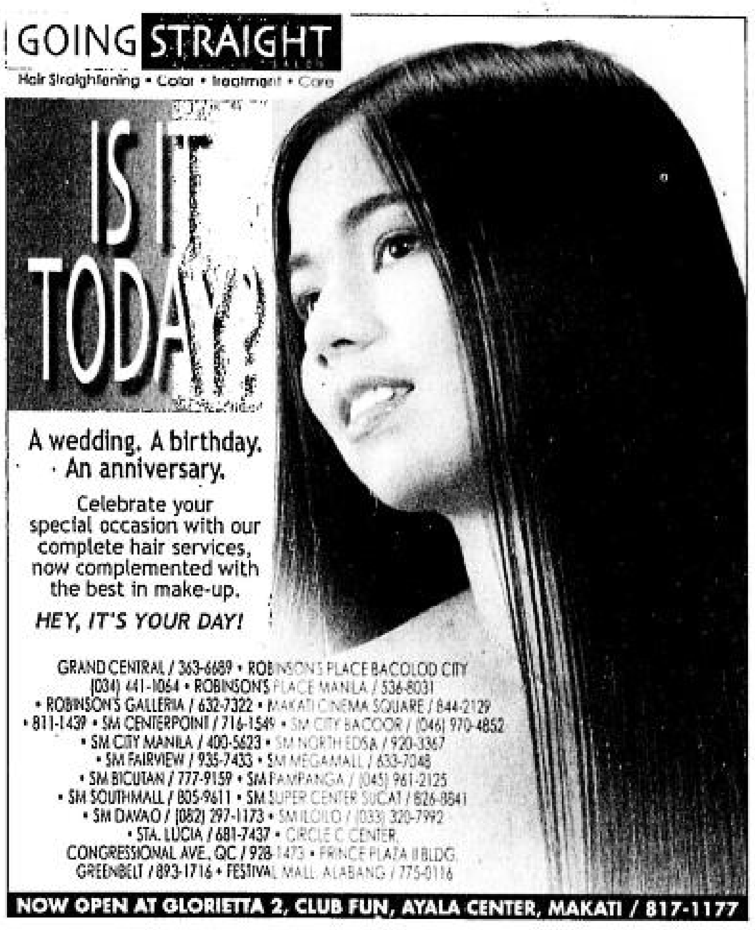
There are different shades of white, and you must be careful to choose a shade that complements, rather than contrasts, with your skin.

Most Asians have yellow undertones that go best with warm tones like beige, champagne or vanilla. *Mestizas* and Caucasians, on the other hand, have pinkish undertones that are set off by cool hues like icy white.

Watch your budget

Having determined your style, body type and skin tone, we come to a

THE WEDDING/ G3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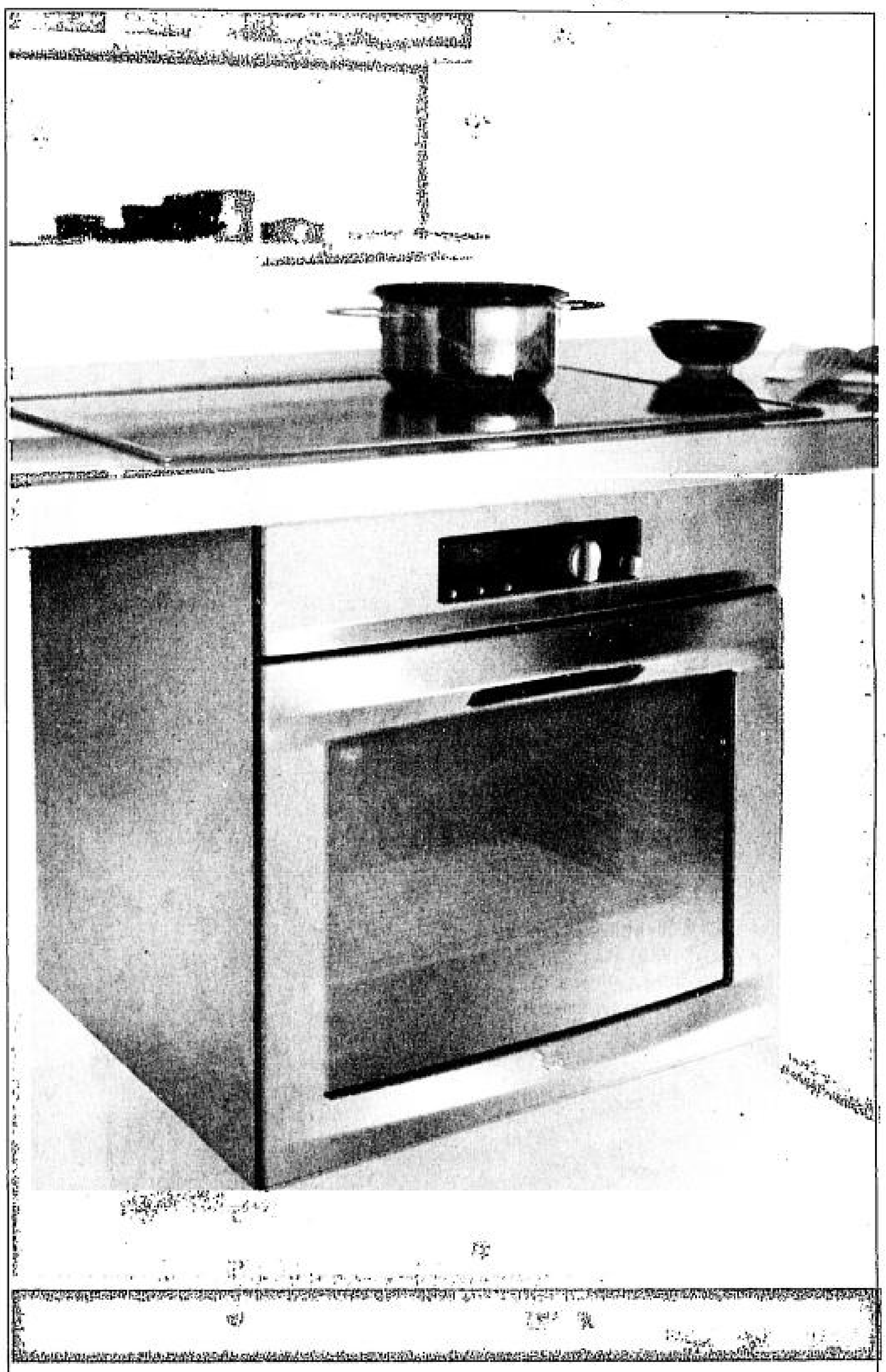
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2. RICE TOPPINGS (12 recipes) - Jul. 7,8,9 (1:30-3:30 pm)
3. ROASTING (7 complete recipes) on Jul 16(pm), 17(pm), 18(am & pm), 19(am)
4. SPECIAL DISHES such as Buddha Soup, Crabs w/ salt & chili, etc. on Jul. 22,23,24,25,26 (9-11 am)
Special One-Meeting Lessons
Jul. 01 (pm) CANTONESE HOPIA, LOTUS CREAM HOPIA, SWEETENED LOTUS SEEDS IN MILK
03 (pm) SEAFOOD ROLL, SIAO LUNG PAO & SPINACH IN STOCK.
04 (pm) YEAST DOUGH Chicken SIOPAO, FRIED MAN THO, PEANUT BUTTER ROLLED IN BUNS
10 (pm) Chiew Chow Chili Sauce, BEEF BELLY CLEAR SOUP, FRIED FISH FILLET W CREAM SAUCE
11 (pm) MISUA GUISADO, MAKI, OYSTER OMELET
12 (am) WANTON, SUEY KAO, TARO CAKE FOR DESSERT
14 (pm) CANTONESE CONGEE, BEEF NOODLES, CRISPY TOPPING
15 (pm) CHICKEN FEET, SPICY SPARE RIBS, ALMOND GELATIN
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Real People. True Stories.

"Now great skin runs in the family – thanks to Imedeen!"

Cynthia Elazegui Sanchez, 41, HR Manager
Cristy Elazegui Puzon, 40, Airline Ticketing Supervisor

Like all sisters, they share secrets. Like the beauty secret that keeps them looking so young for their age.

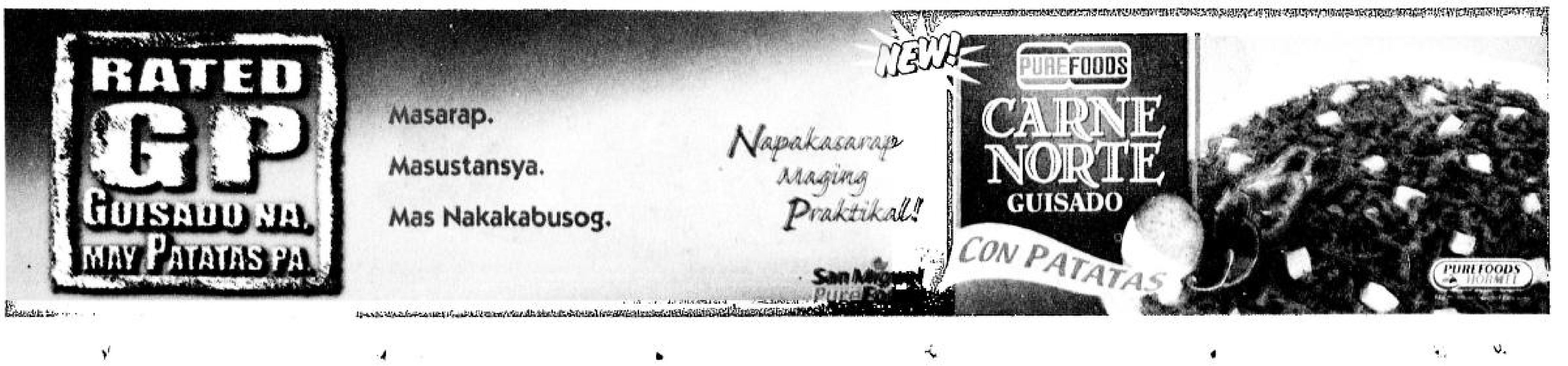
"I learned of Imedeen thru my colleague," Cristy confides. "I immediately convinced Cynthia to try it." Pretty soon, both sisters were hooked, and for good reason. "I thought my sunspots and blemishes were there for good – but now they're completely gone," Cynthia shares. "My skin really improved. Feeling ko parang skin ng baby," declares Cristy. That's because only Imedeen helps nourish and strengthen the inner layer of the skin, resulting in more youthful, brighter and even skin tone.

"We're each other's best friends," Cynthia exclaims. 'But we both agree, ang best friend ng skin namin is Imedeen!"

Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: denser structure implies better support and ability to hold moisture

Clinically Proven
IMEDEEN
The Skin Care Tablet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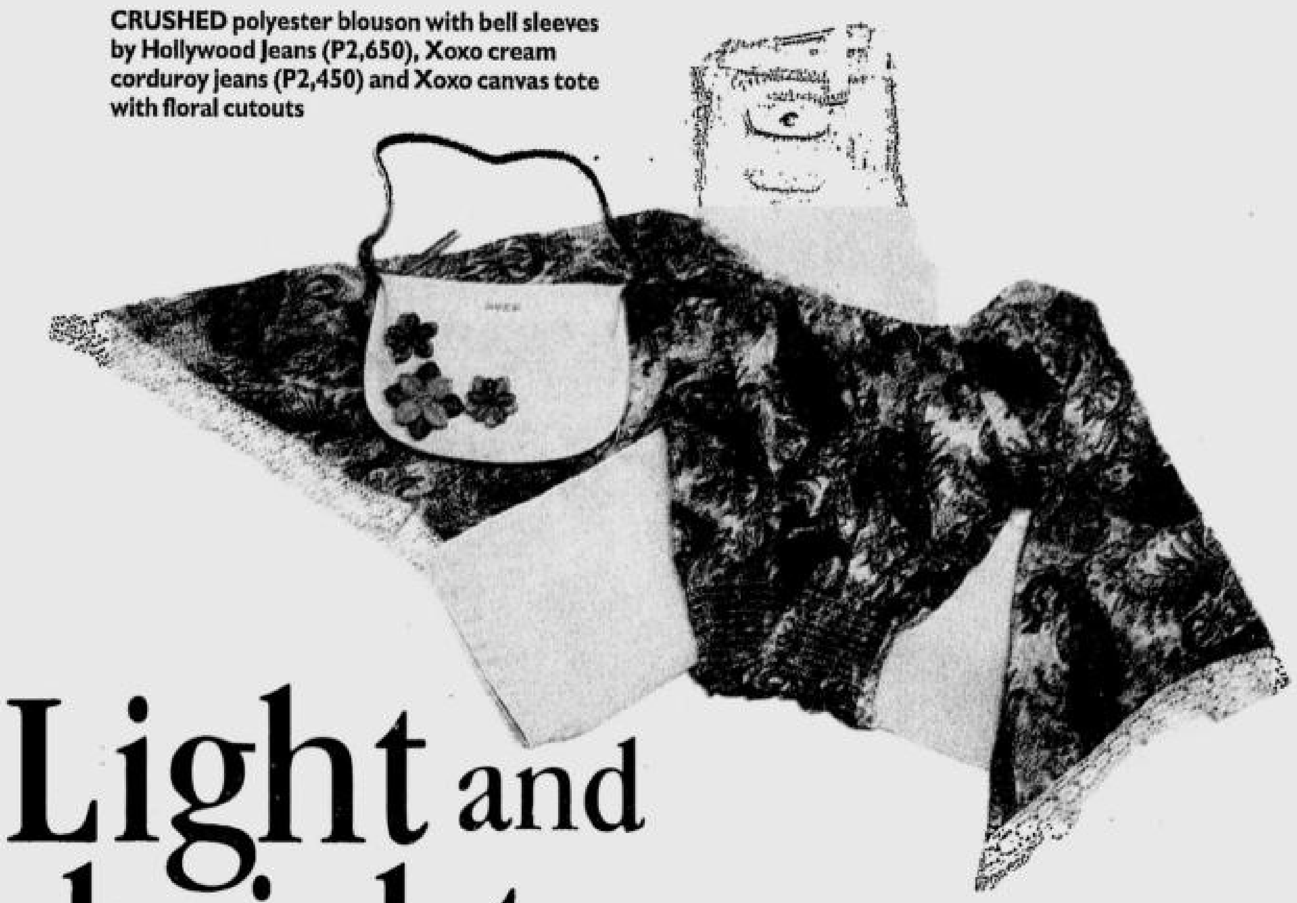
CON PATATAS

AMICHI white cotton shirt with floral embroidery (P2,250) and Amichi stretch cotton pants with fringe-y leatherbelt (P3,250)



CRUSHED polyester blouson with bell sleeves by Hollywood Jeans (P2,650), Xoxo cream corduroy jeans (P2,450) and Xoxo canvas tote with floral cutouts

Light and bright get-ups for rainy days

Hot off the racks, these clothes are so fresh you'll forget it's raining cats and dogs outdoors

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Roger Carpio

SUMMER may be over in this town, but there's no stopping us from getting a taste of the exciting season offerings from Europe and and North America's trendy clothing brands.

The best part is, we don't have to go very far to find them.

Rustan's introduces über-hip American label Xoxo and chic Canadian brand Hollywood Jeans to join the luxury store's recent additions: French favorite Sinequanone and Spanish pride Amichi.

The four brands bring with them this season's super sexy minis and cuffed, cropped pants. Jeans come in stretch fabrics with patchwork designs and appliques. Others are in comfy belted canvas fabrics and classic cords.

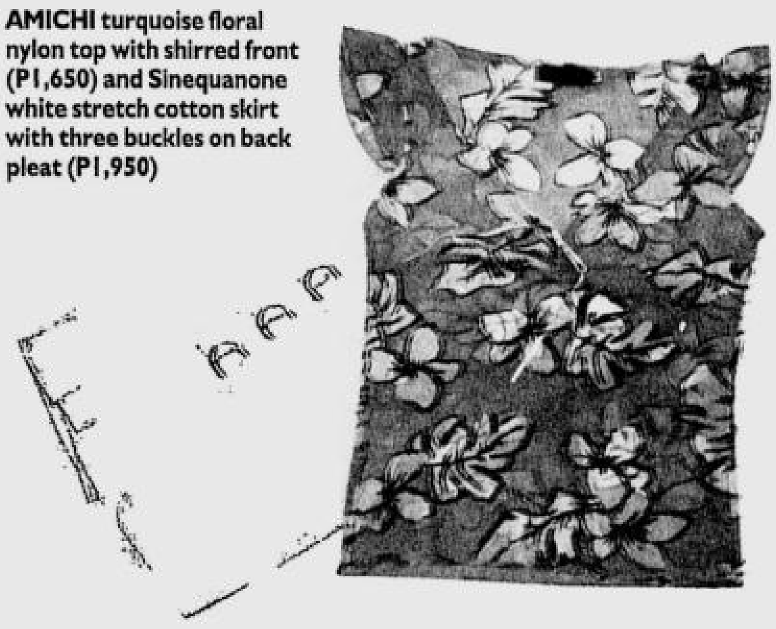
They're so hot even women well past their 30s would be hard put not to fall in love with them!

The tops are in themselves tempting—from summery tubes with lace trims, side tie details and tropical prints, to the ultra feminine blouses with a sprinkling of witty details: twisted asymmetric sleeves, floral and geometric prints, bell sleeves, Chinese collars, shirred fronts, cutouts.

The rainy season is around the corner and we may have to stash away our bikinis soon. But who says we have to look as depressing as the weather and bury ourselves under bulky layers of fabrics and baggy clothing?

So whether you're lounging at daytime or partying the night away, if you're dressed light and bright, how can any stormy weather ever dampen your day?

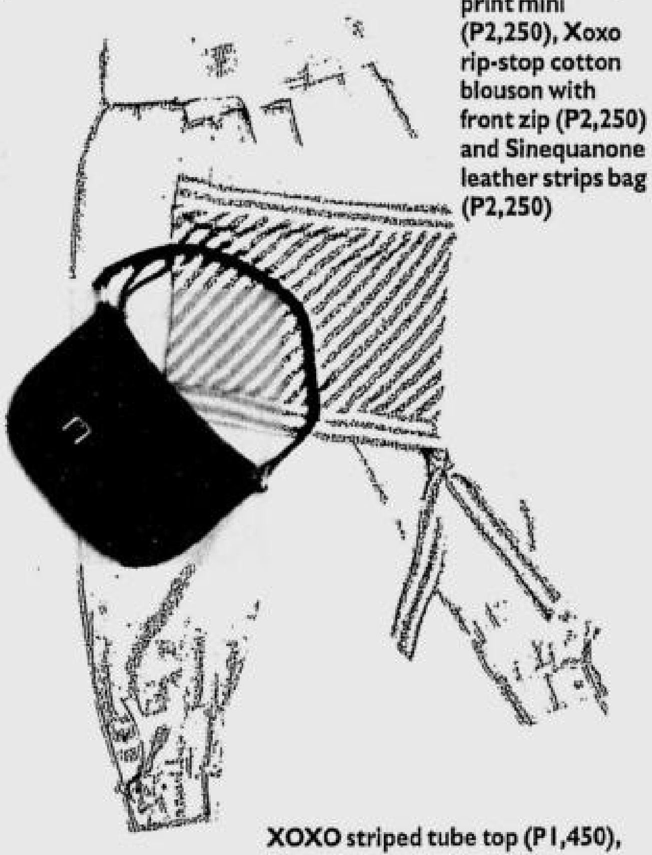
Amichi and Sinequanone are available at the ladies' department of Rustan's Makati; Xoxo and Hollywood Jeans are available at the U boutique in Rustan's Makati



AMICHI turquoise floral nylon top with shirred front (P1,650) and Sinequanone white stretch cotton skirt with three buckles on back pleat (P1,950)

AMICHI paisley-print mini (P2,250), Xoxo rip-stop cotton blouson with front zip (P2,250) and Sinequanone leather strips bag (P2,250)

AMICHI off-white cotton jeans (P2,950) and Sinequanone geometric-print top with asymmetric sleeves (P1,950)



XOXO striped tube top (P1,450), Sinequanone khaki cuffed, cropped pants (P2,650) and Xoxo leather bag with front pockets (P1,250)

XOXO pleated mini with gartered waistband (P1,950), Hollywood Jeans yellow cotton tee (P1,450) and Tiganello brown leather backpack (P5,650)

FUCHSIA cotton tee with cutouts by Xoxo (P1,450), paneled denim mini by Hollywood Jeans, striped canvas wedge slip-ons by U (P695) and Le Sport Sac canvas tote with floral prints (P2,250)

Island Girl

XOXO stretch jeans with patchwork design and sequins-and-lace applique (P2,650) and Xoxo white cotton tube top with tropical island print and lace trimmings (P1,250)

AMICHI red floral nylon top with Chinese collar (P1,650) and Xoxo rip-stop cotton white mini with canvas belt (P2,250)

The wedding gown . . .

From page G1

very important consideration: budget. It's very important to know how to get the best wedding gown out of the budget you've set aside, no matter how much that is.

Canvass, compare and research by asking recently married friends about their designers and the cost of their gowns (that is, if they don't mind revealing how much they spent). This is a good way to establish a ballpark figure on the cost of wedding gowns.

Then, make a list of around three to five of your favorite designers and set appointments with them. This is your chance to discuss your preferred gown style and budget and to find out if you and the designer can work well together.

After your initial meeting, the designer normally presents several designs for you to choose from. Don't be afraid to open up and tell him how you feel, what you want, and, more importantly, what you can afford.

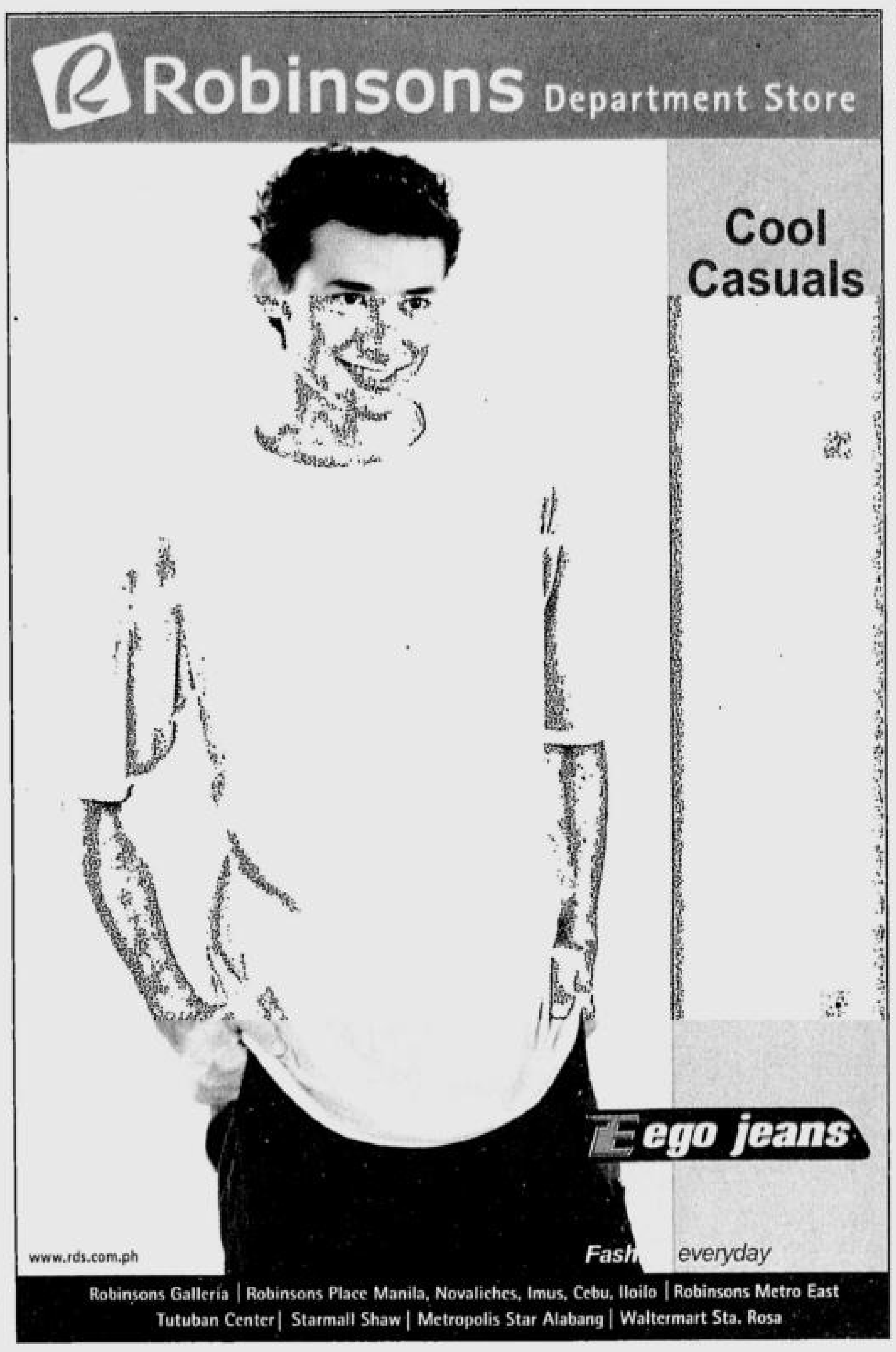
If having your gown made by a designer is out of the question and the budget, the next best thing is to find a reliable and skillful *costurera* or dressmaker.

Once again, ask around so you'll know who the reliable and reasonably priced ones are. Just make sure you are ready with your own design which the dressmaker will copy. And to save even more money, try to buy your fabric from wholesalers in places like Divisoria.

Going vintage is another way to beat your budget woes. Scour the different vintage stores here and, if possible, abroad for special finds. Or why not wear your mother or grandmother's gown—granted that you like the style and that they are willing to pass it on to you? It's a great way to add Old-World charm to your wedding.

Keep on researching by doing a lot of reading and asking around. With patience and hard work, you are certain to get the wedding gown of your dreams.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com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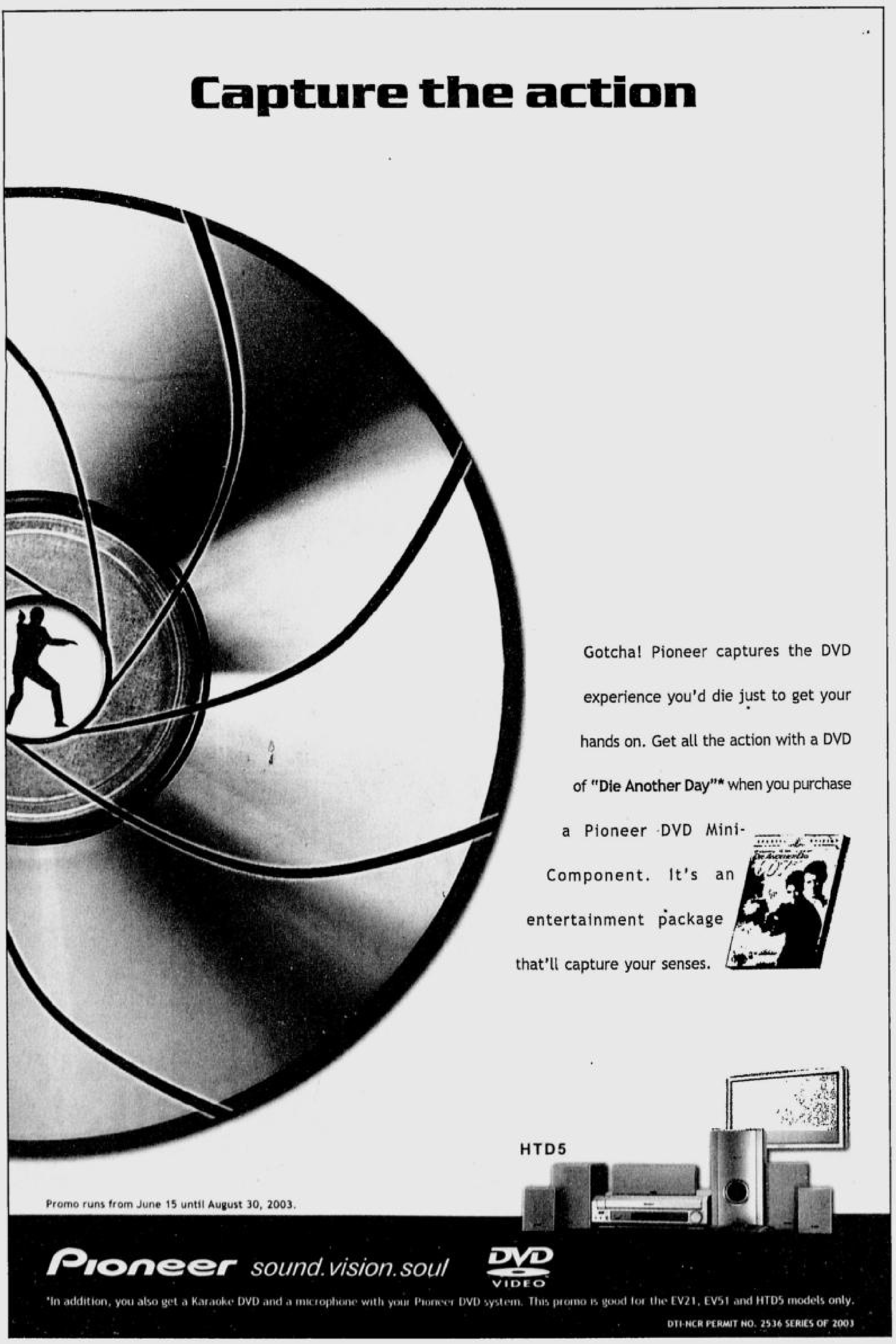
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The country's national bookstore

No-pain way to get rid of cellulite

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

IT TAKES time before we get the results we want from working out in a gym. I have road-tested some products designed to eliminate cellulite and firm and tone flabby body parts to speed up the toning process.

I recommend the following products but just choose one, don't buy them all! Just keep in mind that flab and cellulite will return when you stop using the products.

Shiseido Body Creator Aromatic Gel: Sold over a million bottles in Japan when launched in April 2002. To be applied on clean dry skin every day or night. It uses caffeine to drain excess fluids that cause bloating, and aromatherapy oils to rev up circulation and to tone and firm skin. It goes from cool to cold on skin as it works—a wonderful way to beat the heat.

I noticed a significant reduction in cellulite (despite bloating from PMS or pre-menstrual syndrome and overeating) after a week's use. I don't think my thigh diameter shrunk but they jiggled less and the skin felt smoother and firm. The effect lasts for six weeks when used daily.

Phytomer. The Body de Clic Emulsion works fast. It fools the body into thinking it is fat, so it is "allowed" to get in. Once inside the body, its active ingredient breaks down stubborn stored fat. The difference is visible a few minutes after application. My thighs looked less heavy with less dimples and smoother and more toned. I finish with the Sea Tonic Body Firming Cream to moisturize and tighten further.

L'Oreal Body Expertise Line: The complete line ranges from body exfoliating product to whitening lotion.

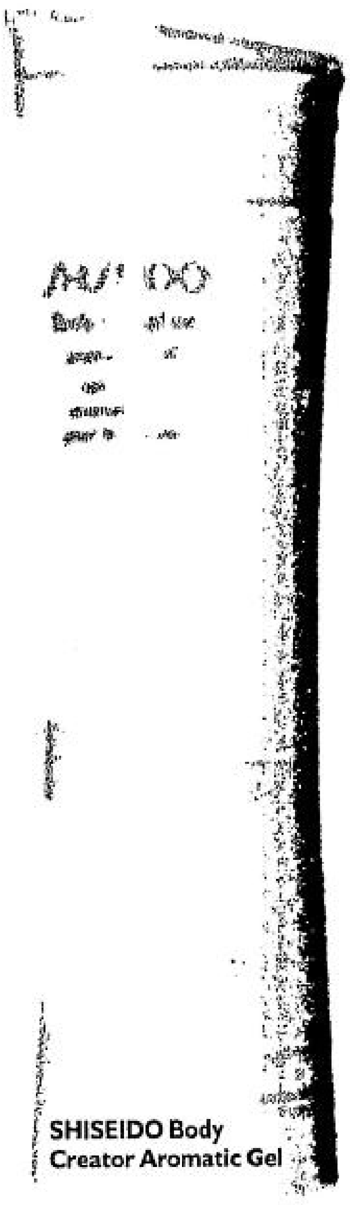
The Exfotonic (body scrub) smells like green apple and citrus fruits, to slough off dead skin cells, allowing the new ones to emerge. Note: not for sensitive skin and face area as the grains are big and coarse.

Nutrilift firms and moisturizes skin. It has four different variants for different skin types, ranging from hydrating only to hydrating plus firming and toning. Use Perfectslim to contour and firm body part, and Whiteperfect lotion to even out skin tone while being protected from the sun with SPF 18.

Phytomer is exclusive at Rustan's. Shiseido boutiques: Rockwell and Glorietta. Kiosks: Landmark and SM.

Keep in mind that cellulite will return when you stop using these products

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



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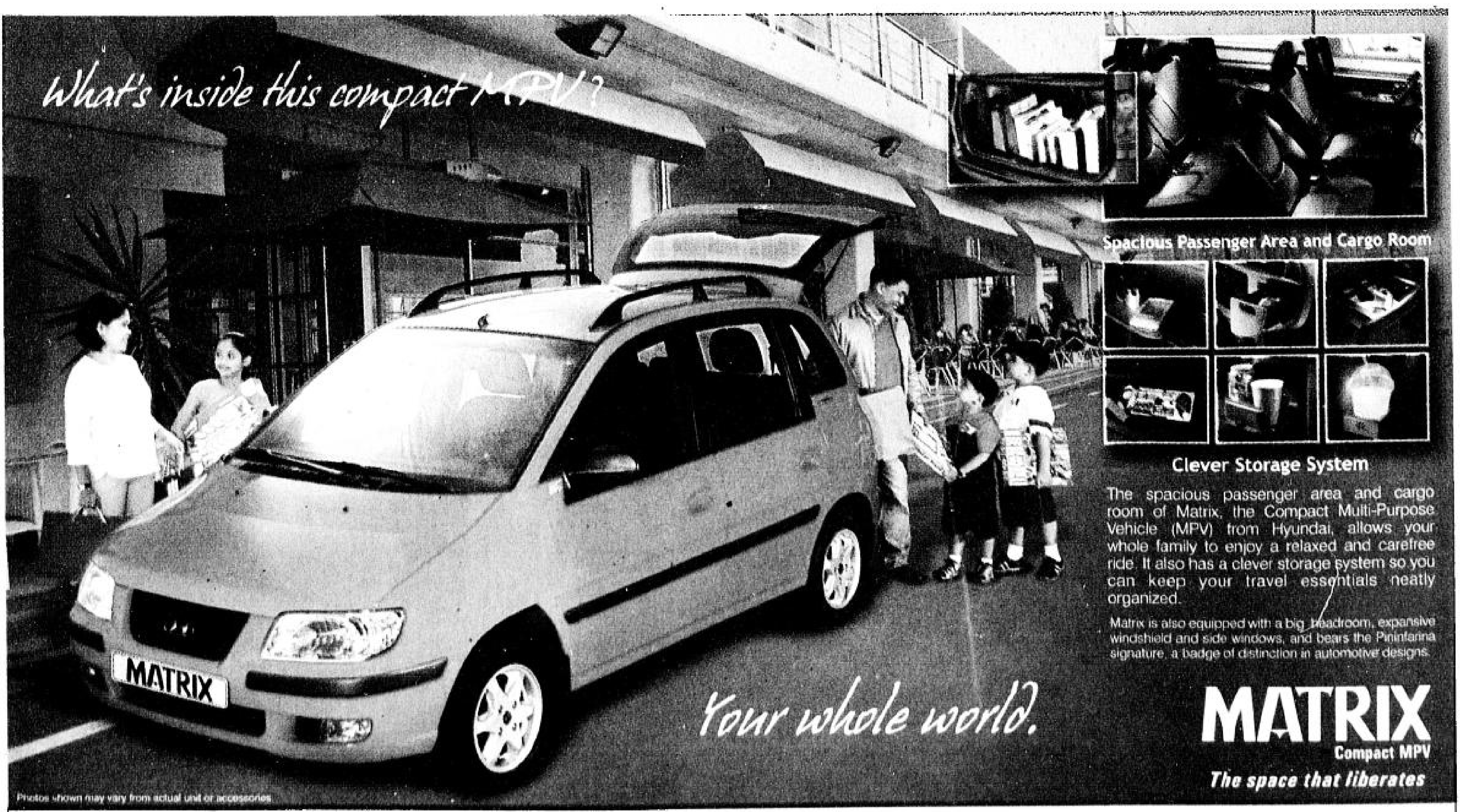

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